THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL
DEVOTED TO TENNESSEE BIRDS

PUBLISHED BY
THE TENNESSEE
ORNITHOLOGICAL
SOCIETY

JUNE 1997
VOL. 68, NO. 2

THE MIGRANT

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF ORNITHOLOGY

PUBLISHED BY

THE TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The T.O.S. is a non-profit, educational, scientific, and conservation organization.

CURRENT DIRECTORY

(Revised December 1997)

EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor — J. Devereux Joslin, Jr., 112 Newcrest Lane, Oak Ridge, TN 37830 <jdjoslin@tva.gov>

Assistant Editor — Charles P. Nicholson, Box 402, Norris, TN 37828

Former Count Compiler — Frank Hixon, 1175 Pineville Road, Chattanooga, TN 37405

New Count Compiler — Christopher J. Welsh, 1400 Pine Springs Road, Knoxville, TN 37922 <welsh@utk.edu>

Season Editor — Richard L. Knight, 804 North Hills Drive, Johnson City, TN 37604

Regional Season Editors —

Western Coastal Plain: Martha G. Waldron, 1626 Yorkshire Dr., Memphis, TN 38119 <waldron@ten-nash.ten.k12.tn.us>

Highland Rim and Basin: Frank Fekel, 925 Todd Preis Dr., Nashville, TN 37221 <fekel@coe.tnstate.edu>

Eastern Ridge and Valley: Richard L. Knight, 804 N. Hills Rd., Johnson City, TN 37604 <rknight@mounet.com>

Eastern Mountain: Richard P. Lewis, 407 V.I. Ranch Rd., Bristol, TN 37620 <vir@tricon.net>

Editorial Assistants — Angela Wampler, 295 Essex Dr., Bluff City, TN 37618 <wampler@sprynet.com>; Richard P. and Amanda Lewis, 407 V.I. Ranch Rd., Bristol, TN 37620 <vir@tricon.net>

OFFICERS FOR 1997-1999

President — Susan N. McWhirter, 4962 Gwynne Rd., Memphis, TN 38117

Vice Presidents —

East Tenn.: Ron D. Hoff, 282 Hackworth Lane, Clinton, TN 37716

Middle Tenn.: Hazel Cassel, 491 Hogan Rd., Nashville, TN 37220

West Tenn.: Robert P. Ford, 4141 Scenic View Dr., Pegram, TN 37413

Directors-at-Large:

East Tenn.: David Hassler, 1455 Hassler Rd., Byrdstown, TN 38549

Middle Tenn.: Morris D. Williams, Rt. 5, Box 167, Lawrenceburg, TN 38464

West Tenn.: Donna L. Ward, Jackson, TN

Secretary — O. Knox Martin, 1176 Dearing Rd., Memphis, TN 38117-6148

Treasurer — David J. Trently, 1029 Morrow Rd., Knoxville, TN 37923

Curator — Charles P. Nicholson, Box 402, Norris, TN 37828

Tennessee Warbler (TOS Newsletter) Editor: Theresa Graham, P.O. Box 366, Oakland, TN 38060, (901) 465-4263, Fax (901) 748-9200 <TIrion@vp.com>

Send subscriptions & address changes to:

Tennessee Ornithological Society

Box 10452, Knoxville, TN 37939-0452

Printed by Mallicote Printing Inc., 509 Shelby Street, Bristol, TN 37620

Copyright © 1998 by the Tennessee Ornithological Society

— ISSN 0026-3575

THE MIGRANT

Published by the Tennessee Ornithological Society
to Record and Encourage the Study of Birds in Tennessee.
Issued in March, June, September, and December.

VOL. 68 June 1997 NO. 2

The Migrant, 68 (2) 33-39, 1997.

RECOVERY EFFORTS RESULT IN RETURNED NESTING OF PEREGRINE FALCONS IN TENNESSEE

RICHARD L. KNIGHT
804 North Hills Drive, Johnson City, TN 37604
and
ROBERT M. HATCHER
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
P. O. Box 40747, Nashville, TN 37204

Abstract. The Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) is a cosmopolitan species whose North American and European populations had suffered serious declines by 1960 (Hickey 1969). Peregrines vanished as a nesting species throughout their former breeding range in the eastern United States, which included Tennessee. This article reviews their historic status in Tennessee and describes the recovery program, which resulted in two successful nests of peregrines in the state in 1997, 50 years after the last documented nest.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Tennessee is situated near the southeastern limit of the historic breeding range of the Peregrine Falcon in North America. Their former breeding range extended southward through the Appalachian Mountains to Georgia and in the Mississippi River Valley to Tennessee (Hickey 1969). The peregrine's breeding range was generally restricted by the availability of nest sites, mainly cliffs. The historic breeding population of the eastern U. S. was estimated to have been at least 350 pairs (Hickey 1942). The most extensive survey of nesting peregrines in Tennessee was made by Albert F. Ganier early in this century. His personal journals contained a list of 25 verified eyries, although not all were found by him (Alsop 1979).

Two distinct populations of peregrines nested in Tennessee, one in the eastern third of the state and the other in the northwestern corner. The cliff nest sites of the East Tennessee population were categorized as canyon eyries of the Cumberland Plateau escarpments, river bluff eyries of the upper Tennessee River system, and remote mountain cliff eyries of the Blue Ridge province (Spofford 1942). A small, disjunct, tree-hole-nesting population inhabited some West Tennessee swamps mainly at Reelfoot Lake (Ganier 1932, Spofford 1943), representing the last remnant of a previously larger Mississippi Valley population (Hickey and Anderson 1969).

Peregrine nest site abandonment in Tennessee was noted as early as the 1930s (Ganier 1940), with a dramatic escalation in the 1940s. Last known nestings for the two Tennessee populations occurred in 1944 at Fall Creek Falls State Park (Spofford 1944) and in 1947 at Reelfoot Lake (Spofford 1947). Lingering individuals remained at some sites for a few years afterwards, without evidence of breeding. A 1964 survey failed to find any occupied sites in the eastern U. S. (Berger et al. 1969).

The primary cause of the decline of American and European peregrines was reproductive failure due to the accumulation of the pesticide DDT and other chlorinated hydrocarbons (Hickey 1969, Ratcliffe 1980). Mysteriously, the Tennessee populations seem to have vanished before the widespread use of DDT, which came shortly after World War II, could have had effect. Indiscriminate shooting and human disturbance at nest sites, including egg collecting, may have accounted for some of the earlier losses. The Peregrine Falcon was placed on the Endangered Species List in the U. S. in the early 1970s (Bollengier 1979).

RECOVERY PROGRAM

With the ban of DDT in the U. S. in 1972 came the potential for restoration. Techniques for the captive breeding of peregrines were accomplished by the early 1970s, using breeding stock from the Arctic and other less-impacted populations (Barclay and Cade 1983). The release, or hacking, of fledgling-aged falcons was begun in 1974 by the Peregrine Fund in the northeastern U. S. Adapted from a long-used falconry practice, hacking for restoration allows the gradual release of young into the wild (Sherrod et al. 1982). The basic hope of the release was that the falcons, upon maturity, would return to nest in the general region near where they learned to fly. Although mortality of the young is high during their first year, as it also is from natural nests (Enderson 1969), saturation of a region through numerous releases increases the chances of success.

With success in the northeastern U. S. (Barclay and Cade 1983), the hacking project shifted emphasis to the Southern Appalachians in 1984, when peregrines were hacked at a site in North Carolina and a site in Tennessee. Over the next six years, 34 young peregrines were hacked at two mountain sites in East Tennessee — 13 at Greenbrier Pinnacle (Figure 1) in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GSMNP) from 1984 to 1986 (Richard L. Knight [RLK] personal observation), and 21 at Big Bald Mountain in the northern Cherokee National Forest from 1987 to 1989 (Wyatt 1991). Five peregrines were hacked at each of two urban sites in Chattanooga (Kenneth H. Dubke [KHD] pers. comm.) and Memphis (Martha Waldron pers. comm.) in 1993. By 1997, over 350 peregrines had been hacked in the Southern Appalachian region (Table 1), with others hacked elsewhere in these states, as well as in Kentucky.

In Tennessee, occasional sightings of single birds, presumed to be returning, occurred in the vicinity of Greenbrier Pinnacle in 1987 (RLK pers. obs.) and Big Bald Mountain during 1989 to 1990 (G. Rad Mayfield, III pers. comm.), but no breeding behavior was noted. From 1989 into the early 1990s, several reports of one or two peregrines lingering from winter into spring or summer came from Knoxville and Nashville, with occasional reports from Chattanooga and Memphis. An artificial nest ledge was provided atop two tall buildings in Nashville in 1990 (Robert M. Hatcher pers. obs.). Similar platforms were installed on tall build-

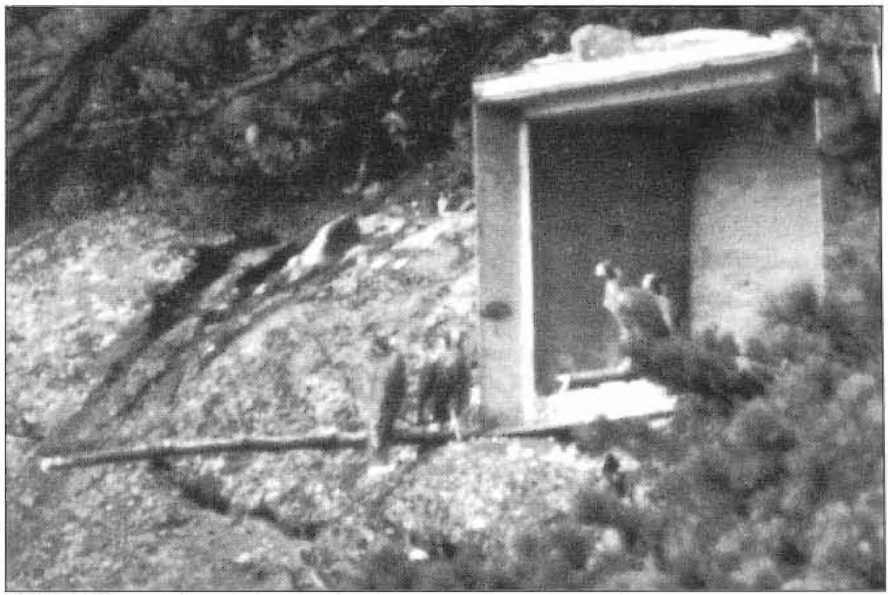

FIGURE 1. Four fledgling Peregrine Falcons outside the hack box at Greenbrier Pinnacle in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Sevier County, Tennessee, 10 August 1984. Photo by Richard L. Knight.

TABLE 1. Distribution of young Peregrine Falcons hacked in the Southern Appalachian region, 1984-1997.*

	'84	'85	'86	'87	'88	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	Total
West Virginia	-	-	-	2	18	20	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	53
Virginia	-	12	5	5	-	25	26	22	11	-	-	-	-	-	106
Tennessee	4	6	3	6	7	8	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	39
North Carolina	4	10	13	18	18	7	-	11	-	-	-	-	10	5	96
South Carolina	-	5	7	5	9	9	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	47
Georgia	-	-	-	-	4	3	3	3	3	3	4	-	-	-	23
Total	8	33	28	36	56	72	54	36	14	8	4	0	10	5	364

*Not included are peregrines hacked in these states, plus Kentucky, at sites that are outside the Southern Appalachian region. These total as follows: Kentucky: 56 hacked in Lexington and the north-central part of the state from 1993 to 1997; Virginia: an unspecified number hacked on the coastal plain; Tennessee: 5 hacked at Memphis in 1993; Georgia: 3 hacked at Atlanta in 1989.

ings in Memphis and Knoxville in the early 1990s by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), and another was put on a tall chimney at the John Sevier Steam Plant, near Rogersville, in 1993 by the Tennessee Valley Authority. No use of these structures was ever reported. A single adult peregrine was seen briefly

near suitable nesting cliffs at Savage Gulf, in Grundy County, on 11 July 1989 (Barbara Stedman pers. comm.).

In 1990 a survey was initiated by TWRA to search for returned falcons and nesting activity. Historic sites and other likely areas in east Tennessee were plotted on maps and observed from an airplane to assess their current potential. Many of these sites were visited on the ground for closer inspection, particularly those in the northern half of the mountain region closest to the regional hack sites. The survey produced the following records through 1996, plus the 1997 discovery of resumed nesting in the GSMNP.

From mid-April through at least June 1990, a pair resided at Peregrine Ridge (Little Duck Hawk Ridge) in the GSMNP (RLK pers. obs.). The pair consisted of an adult male and a sub-adult female, her age determined by the brownish dorsal plumage and streaked breast. Both birds wore bands and, thus, probably were hacked individuals. A spectacular tumbling courtship display was observed on 5 June. A possible nest scrape on a narrow ledge of the western side of the ridge was spotted, but no further evidence of breeding was detected. Either no nesting attempt was made or an attempt failed, perhaps due to the immaturity of the female. Regardless, hopes were high for success in 1991; however, only a couple of brief sightings occurred in April. Reasons for the abandonment were unknown, although human disturbance in the form of rock climbers at the site may have been responsible (Kim DeLozier pers. comm.). A single peregrine flew past Greenbrier Pinnacle, about 12 km to the northeast, on 3 May 1991 (RLK pers. obs.). Thus, it is possible that the 1990 pair had moved to another site nearby, but no other sightings were forthcoming.

On 15 June 1995, a single adult peregrine was seen at Peregrine Ridge in the GSMNP (RLK pers. obs.). It spent about an hour examining the old stick nest of a Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) on the cliff's east face. A peregrine was seen near Chattanooga on 26 June 1996, flying from Moccasin Bend toward the Tennessee River Gorge (Dale Liner pers. comm.). Two peregrines lingering around Dyersburg until 14 April 1996 (Michael Heckethorn pers. comm.) probably represented wintering birds.

During this period, a banded male peregrine hacked at Big Bald Mountain in Tennessee in 1989, and a banded female hacked at a site on the Virginia-West Virginia border, established a territory in 1990 at an urban site in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. The origin of these birds was determined after their band numbers were read through a window as they perched on the ledge outside. Each year from 1991 to 1997 this pair successfully fledged young from a nest box on a tall building, totaling 17 young. Three banded offspring of this pair, involving separate nesting years, have fledged young from three nests in other states — two nests in Detroit, Michigan, and the third in Akron, Ohio (Dan Brauning and Judy Yerkey pers. comm.). Clearly, the scientific name of this species, *peregrinus*, meaning "to wander," is appropriate.

RESUMED NESTING

The first recent successful nesting by Peregrine Falcons in individual southeastern states was documented in North Carolina in 1988 (Chris McGrath pers. comm.); in South Carolina in 1990 (Jim Sorrow pers. comm.); in West Virginia in 1991 (Craig Stihler pers. comm.); in the mountain region of Virginia in 1994 (Keith

Cline pers. comm.); in Georgia in 1996 (Jim Ozier pers. comm.); and in Kentucky in 1997 (Laura Burford pers. comm.).

In 1997, two successful peregrine nests were discovered in Tennessee, a half century after the last known nesting. One nest was on a cliff in the GSMNP. This was on the same cliff, and probably the same ledge, where peregrines were last observed nesting in the park in 1942 (Stupka 1963). The other nest was on a bridge in Chattanooga. Peregrines remained at each site well into the autumn and were viewed by many people.

Smoky Mountain Eyrie: A pair of adult peregrines was first observed 12 March 1997 at Peregrine Ridge, near Alum Cave Bluff, in Sevier County (RLK pers. obs.). It appeared that neither bird wore any bands. On 12 May, the female was observed to enter a horizontal crevice, a suitable nest site, on the east-facing cliff of this narrow, spine-like ridge (RLK pers. obs.). Three downy-white chicks, estimated to be about three weeks old, were seen sitting on the ledge at the mouth of this crevice on 8 June (David Morris and Dick Dickenson pers. comm.). The first juvenile fledged on 2 July (RLK pers. obs.), and the others followed by 4 July (D. Dickenson pers. comm.). Two were males, and the last to fledge a female (D. Dickenson pers. comm.). Since the young are dependent on their parents for food for several weeks after fledging, these young remained in the vicinity of the nest through September (D. Dickenson pers. comm.). One adult peregrine was still there as late as 23 November (Susan Hoyle pers. comm.).

To minimize disturbance at the site, a trail along the summit of Peregrine Ridge was closed and posted immediately after the falcons' discovery, and local helicopter tours were advised to avoid the area (Kim DeLozier pers. comm.). The popular trail by Alum Cave Bluff was a safe distance from the nest, yet provided the public easy viewing opportunities. Given an incubation period of 33 to 35 days, and a nestling period of 40 to 46 days (Palmer 1988), plus a known fledging date, it was estimated that the clutch was completed about 18 April and the young hatched about 21 May.

Chattanooga Eyrie: Beginning on 9 April 1997, a pair of peregrines was observed at the railroad bridge spanning the Tennessee River just downstream from Chickamauga Dam, Hamilton county (Roi Shannon pers. comm.). These falcons were easily seen from parking areas on either side of the river. On 22 May, one adult was noted carrying food to the other that was staying at an apparent nest site on a bridge tower (KHD pers. comm.). One of the adults wore a tan or brownish band on its left leg (KHD pers. comm.). The Bird Banding Laboratory advised that they suspected that this was an orange band which had faded over time, with a possible source being the banding of migratory peregrines on the Gulf coast from a project that ended in 1992 (Mary Gustafson pers. comm.).

A single downy-white chick (Figure 2) was spotted perched near the nest site on 23 June (Jonnie Sue Lyons pers. comm.). The site was monitored daily, and the chick was observed regularly until 2 July, after which the chick was not seen for a few days. Fearing the worst, Howard White of TWRA and three railroad personnel climbed the tower on 7 July to determine if the chick might be in jeopardy inside the structure. There was no sign of the chick; however, both adults still displayed protective behavior. No unusual hazards existed inside the tower (J. R. Miles pers. comm.). After concluding that the chick probably had fallen into the river, observers discontinued monitoring except for drive-by observations noting

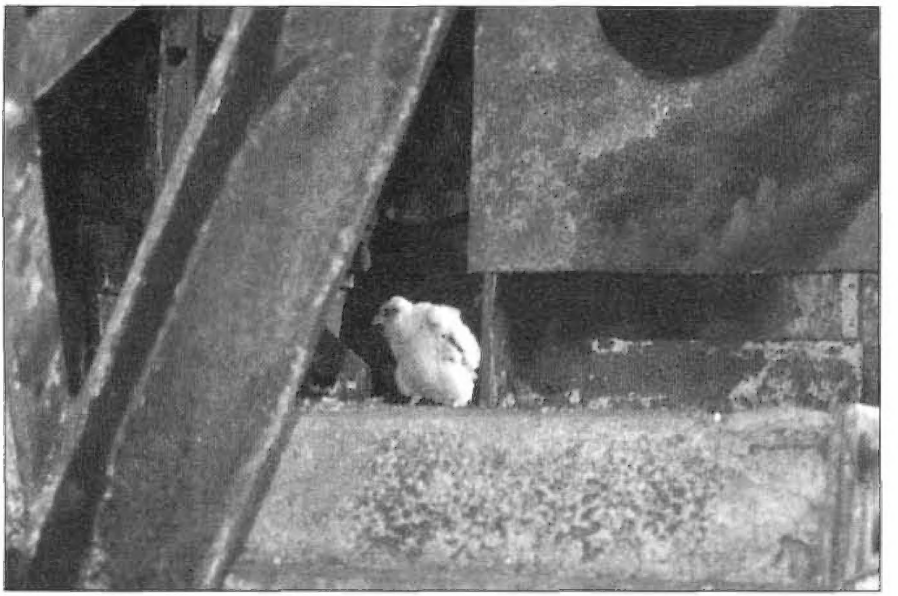

FIGURE 2. Juvenile Peregrine Falcon on the Norfolk Southern Railroad bridge below Chickamauga Dam, Hamilton County, Tennessee, 24 June 1997. Photo by David Browning.

perched falcons, which were assumed to be the adults (KHD pers. comm.). Then, on 22 July, three falcons were seen together at the bridge (Harold Sharp pers. comm.). The third individual was a juvenile, based on its plumage. The adults showed no aggression. This acceptance leads us to conclude that the juvenile had survived fledging on or about 3 July, and that it was not detected until 22 July, due to reduced monitoring. At least one peregrine remained at this site through 17 November (H. Sharp pers. comm.).

TENNESSEE DATA IN PERSPECTIVE

How do these Tennessee data fit into the continental picture? Since 1974, over 2,000 peregrines have been hacked in the eastern U. S., and by 1995 the restored population there had increased to a minimum of 181 pairs (Cade 1996). Populations in the Arctic and western region of the continent have experienced major increases, as well. Consequently, in 1995 the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced a notice of intent to remove the Peregrine Falcon from the Endangered Species List (Cade 1996).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cooperators for the hacking program in Tennessee included the TWRA, the Peregrine Fund, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the Cherokee National Forest, the Memphis Zoo, Master Falconers Dale Liner and David Vance, and the Tennessee Ornithological Society. We also thank all of the persons named in the text for their contributions, especially Dick Dickenson and Ken Dubke. The nest survey in Tennessee was conducted by the

senior author under contract to the TWRA. Data on hacking and re-nesting in neighboring states were graciously provided by representatives of the respective states' natural resource agencies, as follows — Chris McGrath (NC), Jim Ozier (GA), Jim Sorrow (SC), Craig Stihler (WV), Laura Burford (KY), and Keith Cline (VA). The manuscript benefited from the comments of Dev Joslin, Charles Nicholson, and Ann Tarbell, for which we are grateful. We also thank David Browning for the use of the photograph of the peregrine chick on the bridge below Chickamauga Dam.

LITERATURE CITED

Alsop, F.J., III. 1979. *Population Status and Management Considerations for Tennessee's Threatened and Endangered Bird Species.* Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Publication. Nashville.

Barclay, J.H. and T.J. Cade. 1983. Restoration of the Peregrine Falcon in the eastern United States. *Bird Conservation* 1:3-40.

Berger, D.D., C.R. Sindelar, and K.E. Gamble. 1969. The status of breeding peregrines in the eastern United States. In Hickey, J. J., ed., *Peregrine Falcon Populations: Their Biology and Decline.* University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, WI.

Bollengier, R. (ed.). 1979. *Eastern Peregrine Falcon Recovery Plan.* U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C.

Cade, T.J. 1996. A perspective on the eastern peregrines. *Peregrine Fund Newsletter,* 26:1-3.

Enderson, J.H. 1969. Peregrine and Prairie Falcon life tables based on band recovery data. In Hickey, J.J., ed., *Peregrine Falcon Populations: Their Biology and Decline.* University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, WI.

Ganier, A.F. 1932. Duck Hawks at a Reelfoot heronry. *Migrant* 3:28-29.

Ganier, A.F. 1940. Notes on Tennessee birds of prey. *Migrant* 11:1-4.

Hickey, J.J. 1942. Eastern populations of the Duck Hawk. *Auk* 59:176-204.

Hickey, J.J. (ed.). 1969. *Peregrine Falcon Populations: Their Biology and Decline.* University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, WI.

Hickey, J.J. and D.W. Anderson. 1969. The Peregrine Falcon: Life history and population literature. In Hickey, J.J., ed., *Peregrine Falcon Populations: Their Biology and Decline.* University of Wisconsin Press, Madison, WI.

Palmer, R.S. (ed.). 1988. *Handbook of North American Birds, Vol. 5.* Yale University Press, New Haven and London, CT.

Ratcliffe, D. 1980. *The Peregrine Falcon.* Buteo Books, Vermillion, S.D.

Sherrod, S.K., W.R. Heinrich, W.A. Burnham, J.H. Barclay, and T.J. Cade. 1982. *Hacking: A Method for Releasing Peregrine Falcons and Other Birds of Prey.* Peregrine Fund, Ithaca, NY.

Spofford, W.R. 1942. Nesting of the Peregrine Falcon in Tennessee. *Migrant* 13:29-31.

Spofford, W.R. 1943. Peregrines in a West Tennessee swamp. *Migrant* 14:25-27.

Spofford, W.R. 1944. Notes on the Peregrine Falcon. *Migrant* 15:66-67.

Spofford, W.R. 1947. A successful nesting of the Peregrine Falcon with three adults present. *Migrant* 18:49-51.

Stupka, A. 1963. *Notes on the Birds of Great Smoky Mountains National Park.* University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville.

Wyatt, R.L. 1991. A Southern Appalachian bald as a Peregrine Falcon hack site. *Journal of the Tennessee Academy of Science* 66(4):113-119.

The Migrant, 68 (2): 40-41, 1997.

TENNESSEE'S FIRST DOCUMENTED REDDISH EGRET

CHRISTOPHER SLOAN
1410 - 25th Ave. S., Apt. 10
Nashville, TN 37212

On 23 August 1997 at approximately 1350, Susan Hollyday, Philip Casteel, Mary Zimmerman, Jan Shaw, Jay DesGrosselier, and I observed an immature Reddish Egret (*Egretta rufescens*) feeding actively in the main settling pond of the Gallatin Steam Plant in Sumner County near Gallatin, Tennessee. We observed the bird from a distance of approximately 50 meters under a clear sky, with the sun almost directly overhead. Numerous other birders subsequently observed the bird through 6 September. This sighting constitutes the first documented Tennessee record for this species.

We first observed the bird as it flew over us from behind and landed in front of us. Based on its apparent large size and heavy bill, my initial impression was that it was a Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*). However, it was noticeably smaller and plainer than the Great Blue Heron that it landed relatively close to. The general appearance was of a dull, gray, medium-sized heron without any striking features. The bill was dagger-shaped, symmetrical, and almost completely black. The iris was white or very light. Except for some light loral feathers, the head and neck were uniformly gray with a cinnamon cast, visible in direct light. The cinnamon-gray extended from the neck to the upper mantle, where it diffused into pure gray, which extended across the mantle and scapulars. The breast, belly, sides, flanks, and leg feathers were cinnamon-gray, and the legs were uniformly black. The shoulder was cinnamon, contrasting with the solid gray in the mantle and scapulars, and the lightly darker bluish-gray in the coverts, which were tipped with cinnamon.

Perhaps the most striking feature of the Reddish Egret was its behavior. It fed by repeatedly running rapidly from side to side and jumping out of the water with wings outstretched. This behavior was subsequently observed numerous times by most who observed the bird. At least one observer, Frank Fekel, photographed the feeding bird (see Figure 1).

During my observations, I was able to compare this bird directly to three other related species that were present at the same location. The Reddish Egret was noticeably larger than a Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*), but noticeably smaller than both a Great Blue Heron and a Great Egret (*Ardea alba*). Given the bird's uniform gray plumage, the only possible candidate species that could be confused with an immature Reddish Egret are the Great Blue Heron, the adult Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*), and the adult dark-phase Reddish Egret. Perhaps the one feature that served to mark this bird decisively as a Reddish Egret was its feeding behavior. Reddish Egrets are noted for their "dance-style" feeding behavior as displayed by this bird (Terres 1996). The Great Blue Heron is also easily ruled out based on its larger size and distinctive head and plumage pattern. Both adult Little Blue Herons and adult dark-phase Reddish Egrets have a distinctively two-toned bill with a black tip. This bird clearly exhibited instead an almost uniformly dark bill. Furthermore, adult Little Blue Herons, in both basic and alternate plumage, have dark blue to purple mantles, scapulars, wings, and body feathers. Adult

FIGURE 1. Reddish Egret exhibiting unusual "dancing" feeding behavior. Photograph courtesy of Frank Fekel.

Reddish Egrets have bright rufous feathers covering the head and neck. In no plumage will either the Little Blue Heron or the adult Reddish Egret ever show the uniform gray with cinnamon exhibited by an immature Reddish Egret such as this one.

This sighting constitutes the first documented occurrence of this species in Tennessee. Reddish Egrets breed along the Gulf of Mexico and Gulf of California coasts, and their primary habitat is open, shallow salt pans (Scott 1987). Post breeding, it is known to wander north and south of its breeding range, along the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and Pacific coastlines. Numerous inland eastern states have records of this species, generally during late summer. In August and September 1993, Michigan, Iowa, Illinois and Indiana all documented their first records of Reddish Egrets (Wells 1994). Published records also exist for Pennsylvania (Stull et al. 1985) and Kentucky (Palmer-Ball 1982). Thus birders should be aware of the possibility that this species may recur in Tennessee in the future.

LITERATURE CITED

Palmer-Ball, B.L. 1982. *Kentucky Warbler* 58:35-38.

Scott, S.L. 1987. *Field Guide to the Birds of North America.* National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C.

Stull, J., J.A. Stull, and G. M. McWilliams. 1985. *Birds of Erie County, Pennsylvania, including Presque Isle.* Allegheny Press, Elgin, Pennsylvania

Terres, J.K. 1996. *Encyclopedia of North American Birds.* Wings Books, Avenel, N.J.

Wells, T. 1994. First record of Reddish Egret in Michigan. *Michigan Birds and Natural History* 1:15-16.

The Migrant, 68 (2): 42-43, 1997.

KIRTLAND'S WARBLER IN TENNESSEE

CHRISTOPHER E. SKELTON AND ROLAND W. KAYS
Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

The Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*) has one of the most restricted breeding ranges of any North American passerine (Sykes 1997) and has always been considered one of the rarest songbirds in North America (Mayfield 1992). At present, this warbler is known to nest in 17 counties in central Michigan and to winter in the Bahamas (Sykes 1997). Kirtland's Warblers are seldom seen during migration but have been reported from most of the states east of the Mississippi River (Mayfield 1992). Here we report the sighting of a Kirtland's Warbler at the Eastern State Wildlife Management Area (ESWMA) in Knoxville, Tennessee on 13 May 1997.

The ESWMA consists of about 140 ha. of open fields, hedgerows, shrubby thickets, mixed hardwood forest, and stands of red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) and Virginia pine (*Pinus virginia*). On the morning of 13 May 1997, we went to ESWMA to search for migrant passerines. At about 09:40 Christopher Skelton (CS) began "spishing" near a thicket where we had heard an unfamiliar song earlier that morning. Within a few seconds, a bird flew into view and landed at eye level on a dead branch about 3.5 m into the thicket. CS continued to "spish" and the warbler hopped toward him until it reached the edge of the thicket, in full view about 2 m away. CS observed the bird for about 90 seconds, then backed away and called Roland Kays, who was 20 m away. We both watched the bird for an additional minute as it began to move higher and deeper into the vegetation. As it moved, it frequently bobbed its tail. The viewing distance ranged from 2 to 10 m as the bird moved from a height of 1.5 to 5 m above the ground. The bird was in clear view most of this time but did not vocalize.

The bird was a large warbler with a black bill and black legs. The bird's back was blue-gray and the underparts yellow, except for the undertail coverts and vent, which were white. The yellow was most intense on the throat. There were black streaks along the sides and flanks, and indistinct white wing bars along the tips of the greater and median wing coverts. The bird had distinct white crescents above and below the eye. Based on the overall intensity of the plumage color, we believe that this was a male bird (Curson et al. 1994). We were able to positively identify only a red band on each leg and a white band on one leg (probably the right leg). This information was forwarded to researchers at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center but was insufficient for precise identification of the individual (Carol Bocetti, Kirtland's Warbler Population Dynamics Study, pers. comm.).

Optics used were Swift Audubon 8x44.5 and Zeiss 10x40b. The vegetation at this location consisted of a thick stand of Virginia pine and red cedar (both about 5 m tall), mixed with sumac (*Rhus spp.*), honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), and a deciduous magnolia (*Magnolia spp.*). Both of the authors are experienced birders and have seen most of the warblers of eastern North America. RK photographed Kirtland's Warbler on its breeding grounds in Michigan in 1993.

Two published records have documented Kirtland's Warbler in Tennessee. Darnell (1956) described a specimen on 28 September 1956 in Greeneville, Ten-

nessee, which he observed feeding in "low pines" for about thirty minutes. Based on this sighting, Kirtland's Warbler was placed on the List of Provisional Birds by the Certification Committee of the Tennessee Ornithological Society (TOS)(Nicholson 1983; Robinson 1990). Brooks (1990a; 1990b) described a warbler as Kirtland's on 1 October 1989 in Jonesborough, Tennessee. Because this sighting was neither seen by additional observers nor documented with photographs, this record was not accepted by the Records Committee of TOS (James Brooks, pers. comm.).

We have been notified by the TOS Bird Records Committee that our record has been accepted. Without a photograph, a verified skin, or a sound recording, the committee requires three "satisfactorily documented" records in order to place a species on the confirmed list of Tennessee birds (Nicholson 1983). Because ours is the second officially accepted record, Kirtland's Warbler remains on the Provisional List of Tennessee Birds (Mark Greene, pers. comm.),

Although Kirtland's Warblers are still very rare, their population has sharply increased over the past seven years. The 1997 breeding census reported a total of 733 single males, which is more than three times the number reported in 1990 (Anonymous 1997). We are hopeful that their numbers will continue to rise and provide birders with increased chances of seeing this elusive migrant. Perhaps birders searching shrubby pine habitat, such as that in the ESWMA, will document a third Kirtland's Warbler, thus placing it on the confirmed list of Tennessee birds.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank James Brooks, Thomas Brooks, Mark Greene, and Virginia Maynard for information and comments that greatly improved an earlier draft of this paper.

LITERATURE CITED

Anonymous 1997. Update: Kirtland's Warbler. *Winging It* 9(9):1-7.

Brooks, J. 1990a. More questions than Kirtland's Warblers. *Birdwatcher's Digest* 13(1):54-59.

Brooks, J. 1990b. Warblers to finches of the Appalachian region, Season report. *Amer. Birds* 44:91.

Curson, J., D. Quinn, and D. Beadle. 1994. *Warblers of the Americas: An Identification Guide.* Houghton-Miflin Co., Boston.

Darnell, M. 1956. Kirtland's Warbler. *Migrant* 3:53.

Mayfield, H. F. Kirtland's Warbler. IN: *The Birds of North America, No. 19* (A. Poole, P. Stettenheim, and F. Gill, Eds.). Philadelphia: The Academy of Natural Sciences; Washington, DC: The American Ornithologists Union.

Nicholson, C.P. 1983. The official list of Tennessee birds. *Migrant* 54:2-5.

Robinson, J.C. 1990. An Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Tennessee. University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville.

Sykes, P.W. 1997. A closer look: Kirtland's Warbler. *Birding* 23:220-227.

The Migrant, 68 (2): 44-45, 1997.

TREE SWALLOW BREEDING ACCELERATING IN EAST TENNESSEE

J. B. Owen
2324 Antietam Road, Knoxville, TN 37917

The expansion of the breeding range of Tree Swallows (*Tachycineta bicolor*) across Tennessee has been previously covered by Nicholson and Pitts (1982), and has recently been updated by Nicholson (1997). I write a weekly nature column in *The Knoxville News-Sentinel* and receive phone calls and letters which indicate that, within the newspaper's circulation area in East Tennessee, this expansion has accelerated during the 1990's. Nesting boxes provided for Eastern Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*) have apparently contributed considerably to this expansion.

Through 1982, successful Tree Swallow nests had been found in only four East Tennessee counties: Anderson County in 1968 and 1969, Cumberland County in 1972, Blount County in 1979, and Cocke County in 1982 (Nicholson and Pitts, 1982, Figure 1).

Nicholson (1997), using breeding bird records through 1991, listed 17 East Tennessee counties with confirmed or probable Tree Swallow breeding. Counties in addition to those already mentioned are: Campbell, Carter, Grainger, Hawkins, Jefferson, Johnson, Knox, Loudon, Meigs, Monroe, Roane, Sevier, and Washington (Table 1).

My column received its first reports of Tree Swallows breeding in 1990 from Jefferson county, Loudon County (2 locations), and Sevier County. By 1997, bluebird boxes at both Loudon County sites were still occupied by Tree Swallows, but the swallows in Sevier County had been evicted by House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*).

From 1991 through 1997, I received reports of new sites with Tree Swallow nests in bluebird boxes from 13 counties, as listed in Table 1. These total 45 new Tree Swallow nest sites in bluebird nesting boxes. They also include records from three more counties than were reported by Nicholson (1997) — Sullivan, Greene, and Polk — as shown in Figure 1.

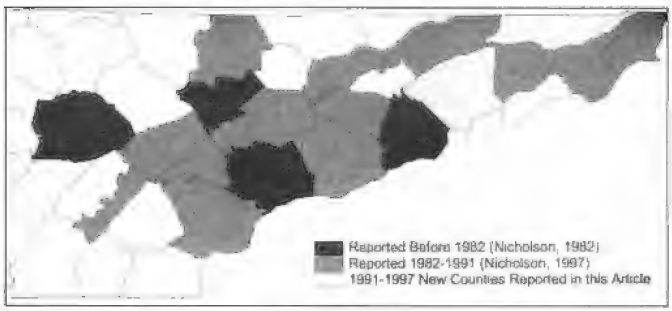
Reported Before 1982 (Nicholson, 1982)
Reported 1982-1991 (Nicholson, 1997)
1991-1997 New Counties Reported in this Article

Figure 1. East Tennessee Counties in which Tree Swallow Nests have been reported and the time period during which first reports were recorded.

TABLE 1. Time period and number of first occurrences of swallow nest sites by county. None were reported in 1992. Counties are ordered roughly from north to south.

County	1990-91	1993-94	1995-96	1997	TOTAL
Campbell	-	1	-	-	1
Sullivan	-	-	-	1	1
Greene	1	-	-	-	1
Anderson	-	-	2	1	3
Jefferson	2	1	4	-	7
Knox	-	3	4	3	10
Blount	-	1	-	1	2
Cumberland	-	-	1	-	1
Loudon	2	1	2	3	8
Roane	1	-	3	-	4
Sevier	1	1	1	2	5
Polk	-	-	-	1	1
TOTAL	7	8	17	13	45

Most of the reports were from Knox and neighboring counties where the newspaper's circulation is heaviest. But in 1997, reports of new, single nests included one from Polk County, which is along the Georgia state line, and another from Sullivan County, which borders Virginia. The number of reported new sites appears to be accelerating during the 1990's from 3.5 per year in 1990-1991 to 13 in 1997.

I thank Charles P. Nicholson for supplying me with an advance proof of the Tree Swallow pages from *An Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Tennessee* and for reviewing this manuscript.

LITERATURE CITED

Nicholson, C.P. and T.D. Pitts. 1982. Nesting of the Tree Swallow in Tennessee. *Migrant* 53:73-80.

Nicholson, C.P. 1997. *An Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Tennessee*. University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville.

The Migrant, 68 (2): 46, 1997.

STATE'S FIRST CURLEW SANDPIPER SIGHTED IN WEST TENNESSEE

William G. Criswell
Route 4, Box 206, Dyersburg, TN 38024

On 3 June 1996 at 1800, while birding along Highway 79 West in Lake County, Tennessee, I observed a number of small shorebirds in a flooded field. As I scanned through the birds — which included White-rumped Sandpipers (*Calidris fusicolis*), Semipalmated Sandpipers (*Calidris pusilla*), and Dunlins (*Calidris alpina*) — one bird caught my eye. I was able to obtain a good look at the bird as I approached within 40 m with the sun at my back. Similar to a Dunlin in build, the bird had a bill which was more curved with a finer point. The bird was cinnamon-colored on the breast and face, with a conspicuous spot at the base of the bill and a white supercilium. The bird was approximately the size of the White-rumped Sandpipers (about 20 cm in length) with which it was feeding. It fed in a similar manner to the White-rumped Sandpipers, by picking, rather than probing like a Dunlin.

I saw the bird again, and, as it flew, I noted the distinctive white rump patch of the Curlew Sandpiper (*Calidris ferruginea*), a bird I had seen only once before, years ago, on the Pacific island of Okinawa. The pale coloration of the face and underparts indicated that it was probably a female. The Curlew Sandpiper breeds in the Arctic of eastern Asia (Peterson et al. 1993), and is a casual to rare migrant throughout North America (National Geographic Society 1987). A number of other birders saw the bird on 4 June, including Jeff Wilson, Martha Waldron, Jim Johnson, Mark Green, Dick Preston, Virginia Reynolds, Cath Alsop, and Murray Gardler.

LITERATURE CITED

National Geographic Society. 1987. *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*. Second Edition. Nat. Geogr. Soc., Washington, D.C.

Peterson, R.T., G. Mountfort, and P.A.D. Hollom. 1993. *A Field Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe*. Houghton Miflin, Boston, MA.

The Migrant, 68 (2): 47, 1997.

FIRST RECORD OF SHINY COWBIRD IN TENNESSEE

MURRAY GARDLER
7911 Cross Pike Dr., Germantown, TN 38138

On the morning of 6 July 1995, Martha Waldron and I observed a male Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*) at President's Island in Memphis, Tennessee. We were walking along a gravel road at 0800 when we observed the Shiny Cowbird perched on a telephone wire overhead. Weather conditions were excellent, with bright sunlight and scattered clouds, no wind, and a temperature of about 20°C. We were no more than 25 m from the bird, using 10x40 Bausch and Lomb and 8x42 Elite binoculars, when we observed the bird's glossy purple head, back, and breast, very evident in the morning sun. We noted its flat head, brown or dark eye, and bill, which was less conical than that of the Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*). We were able to study the bird for about two minutes before it flew to a nearby tree. In a few minutes the bird returned to the wire and perched next to a pair of Brown-headed Cowbirds. We noticed that the Shiny Cowbird was sleeker in appearance, but similar in size, compared to its Brown-headed relatives.

After securing permission from the owner of the property we called other TOS members to verify the observation. The bird was photographed and seen by many observers throughout the day, feeding with Brown-headed Cowbirds, House Finches (*Carpodacus mexicanus*), and American Robins (*Turdus migratorius*) beneath a hanging feeder, or perched on a telephone line in the yard of Mr. Wallace Wilburn. Mr. Wilburn commented that he had noticed the bird about four or five days prior to our visit.

The Shiny Cowbird is a native of Panama, most of South America and the Antilles, but in recent decades it has rapidly spread northward. By the mid-1980's, the bird had been observed as far north as Florida, and has since been recorded as a vagrant in numerous states in the southeastern U.S. (Smith and Sprunt 1987).

LITERATURE CITED

SMITH, P. W. AND A. SPRUNT, IV. 1987. The Shiny Cowbird reaches the United States. *Am. Birds*. 41:370-371.

Accepted 21 February 1996

The Migrant, 68 (2): 48, 1997.

RECORD OF ANHINGA NESTING IN TENNESSEE

Nancy Moore
Route 1, Box 2300, Tiptonville, TN 38079
and
Terry Pride
234 Park Drive, Tiptonville, TN 38079

On 26 June, 1996, we set out through swampy terrain to observe birds in a colony of wading birds in Reelfoot Lake on the Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge. The colony was located on Grassy Island, about halfway between Rat Pocket and Yankapin Basin, in an area known as "Old Mud Basin." Shortly after we reached the colony, we sighted five or six Anhingas (*Anhinga anhinga*) circling overhead. About 10 minutes later, an Anhinga was spotted descending into the trees within the colony. Upon approaching this spot, we located the bird sitting on its nest and pictures were taken. The nest was about 12 m above the surface of the water in a 16 m tall baldcypress tree (*Taxodium distichum*) on the northwest edge of the colony. It had been built on the terminal end of a short branch of the tree, beneath the main upper canopy. Other birds that we observed nesting in this extensive colony, about one hectare in size, included large numbers of Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodius*), Great Egrets (*Ardea alba*), and other wading birds.

As far as we know, this is the first confirmed record of nesting by the Anhinga at Reelfoot Lake since 1988. Prior to a record by Pitts in 1977 (Pitts 1982), Anhingas had not been recorded as nesting at Reelfoot since 1938; during the 1930s from 40 to 100 nests were found in different years (Ganier 1933; Nicholson in press). Nicholson (in press) also reported single nests at Reelfoot in 1986, 1987, and 1988. Other records in Tennessee include five nests in Humphreys County at the Tennessee National Wildlife Refuge (Cypert 1955) and one in McNairy County at Big Hill Pond State Park (Waldron 1980).

LITERATURE CITED

Cypert, E., Jr. 1955. Some interesting bird observations on Kentucky Lake. *Migrant* 26:9-11

Ganier, A.F. 1933. Water birds of Reelfoot Lake. J. Tenn. Acad. Sci. 8:65-83.

Nicholson, C.P. 1997. *An Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Tennessee*. University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville.

Pitts, T.D. 1982. Establishment of a new heron and egret colony at Reelfoot Lake, Tennessee. *Migrant* 53:63-64.

Waldron, M.G. 1980. Anhinga nesting at Big Hill Pond, McNairy Co. *Migrant* 51:86.

The Migrant, 68 (2): 49, 1997.

OBSERVATIONS OF A HERONRY IN DYER COUNTY

JIM JOHNSON
225 Martin Luther King Blvd., Jackson, TN 88301

On 19-20 June and 1 July, 1996, I and other observers surveyed a very large heronry on Island Number 20 in the Mississippi River west of Heloise, Dyer County, Tennessee. The heronry was in an isolated, dense stand of black willows (*Salix nigra*) at the downstream end of the island. The heronry was about 400 m in length, 100 m in width at its widest, and tapered to a downstream point. At the time of our visits, the river stage was very high, measuring about 4 m deep on the island on 19 June.

I estimated that the colony contained about 3,000 nests, with approximately 50 percent of the nests being used by Cattle Egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*); 15 percent, by Snowy Egrets (*Egretta thula*); 15 percent, by Little Blue Herons (*Egretta caerulea*); 10 percent, by Great Egrets (*Ardea alba*); and 10 percent, by Black-crowned Night-Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*). On our 19 June visit, we observed a mixed flock of 23 adult and juvenile White Ibises (*Eudocimus albus*) flying overhead. We also observed Anhingas (*Anhinga anhinga*) flying out of the heronry, and, on 1 July , I saw an Anhinga in the heronry. I could not confirm nesting by the Anhinga, however. The observers, in addition to myself, were Joe Guinn and Jeff Wilson on 19 June; Joe Guinn on 20 June; and Michael Hechethorn and Joe Guinn on 1 July.

RECENT CHANGES IN TAXONOMY

RICHARD L. KNIGHT, Season Editor

The Forty-first Supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union Checklist (*Auk* 114:542-552, 1997) reports the most recent changes in taxonomy and nomenclature adopted for North American birds. Only one change of common names affects Tennessee ornithology. The Solitary Vireo has been split into three new species: the Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*), the form found in eastern North America, and two western forms, Cassin's Vireo and Plumbeous Vireo, both unrecorded in Tennessee.

The Migrant, 68 (2): 50, 1997.

SABINE'S GULLS SIGHTED IN LAKE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

William G. Criswell
Route 4, Box 206, Dyersburg, TN 38024

On 16 September 1995, while on the lower end of Island 13, Lake County, Tennessee, I observed a flock of birds flying northward along the Mississippi River at about 200 m distance. Upon viewing the birds through my Bushnell Zoom 7x15 field glasses, I noted eight gulls, all with highly visible white triangular wing patches and black primaries. The birds were wheeling and diving as they flew. I noted on two of the birds that the white tails were moderately forked with a narrow black tail band emphasizing the fork.

A short time later, I saw one gull as it flew up and circled past me within 30 m or less. As it passed, I again noted the wing and tail characteristics noted above. The rest of the wings and back were a light brown or brownish. The bill was small and black, and there was some black on the head, though it was not hooded. The field marks observed eliminate every gull other than Sabine's Gull (*Xema sabini*). The narrow black tail bands are indicative of immature individuals.

Sabine's Gull breeds in the Arctic and winters at sea in the Southern Hemisphere. It is a very rare migrant inland, usually as an immature (National Geographic Society 1987). Robinson (1990) reports one previous sighting in Tennessee on Chickamauga Lake, Hamilton County on 20 September 1988 by Benton Basham.

LITERATURE CITED

National Geographic Society. 1987. *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*. Second Edition. Nat. Geogr. Soc., Washington, D.C.

Robinson, J.C. 1990. *An Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Tennessee*. Univ. of Tenn. Press, Knoxville.

ARTICLES SCHEDULED FOR UPCOMING *MIGRANT* ISSUES

The following articles are tentatively scheduled to appear in the upcoming September, 1997 issue of *The Migrant:*

• DICKENSON, DICK. Notes on the breeding biology of Peregrine Falcons in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

• FORD, ROBERT P. and MARTHA G. WALDRON. A census of breeding birds of Fayette County, Tennessee, including the 1997 foray.

• HOFF, RON D. Results of the 1997 International Migratory Bird Day Counts in Tennessee.

• KNIGHT, RICHARD L., MARTHA G. WALDRON, FRANK FEKEL, and RICHARD P. LEWIS. The Spring 1997 Season Report.

• MANN, LINDA, JASON MITCHELL, JIM EVANS, DEV JOSLIN, and MIKE ROEDEL. Birds of the DOE/TWRA Oak Ridge Reservation.

NOMINATIONS FOR IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS IN TENNESSEE BEING ACCEPTED

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, in cooperation with the National Audubon Society's Important Bird Areas Program, is currently accepting nominations for Important Bird Areas (IBA's) in Tennessee. Site nomination forms, as well as guidelines and criteria, can be obtained from Janet Troup, IBA Coordinator, TWRA, P. O. Box 40747, Nashville, TN 37204; e-mail: <jtroup@mail.state.tn.us>

The Migrant, 68 (2): 52-54, 1997.

MINUTES OF SPRING 1997 TOS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Spring meeting of the Tennessee Ornithological Society (TOS) was held on 2-4 May 1997, at the Ramada Inn in Chattanooga, TN with 112 paid registrations. The Chattanooga chapter served as hosts. Field trips took place on the mornings of 3 May and 4 May to Audubon Acres/Chickamauga Dam (led by Ken Dubke), Amnicola Marsh (led by Carla Christiansen and David Vogt), Tennessee River Gorge (led by Tommie Rogers), Brainerd Levee (led by John Henderson), and Baylor School (led by Bill Haley).

The meeting was called to order at 1:40 PM, 3 May, by President James Brooks. The minutes of the Fall 1995 meeting were approved as corrected.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: There were no VICE PRESIDENTIAL REPORTS from West and Middle Tennessee. East Tennessee Vice President Marcia Davis reported that Knoxville and Chattanooga Chapters of TOS are participating in the International Migratory Bird Day activities. She reported on the Knoxville Chapter's project, the Cornell University's Feeder Watch at Bearden High School. There were no DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE REPORTS.

TREASURER'S REPORT: David Trently presented the Treasurer's Report. The report was approved as presented. Highlights included:

— INCOME was $25,361.08, including: $11,136.00 from dues and subscriptions, $13,549.08 from interest, and $676.00 from miscellaneous income.

— EXPENSES totaled $26,014.51, including: $1,507.44 for the *Tennessee Warbler*, and $24,507.07 for miscellaneous.

CURATOR: No report.

MIGRANT EDITOR: Rick Knight read a letter from Editor Wallace Coffey that reported that the three annual issues for 1994, 1995 and 1996 are at the printer and described the contents of these issues. Dev Joslin, new Editor, reported that the quarterly printing of the journal is being resumed. He briefly described the featured articles and content of the Spring 1997 issue that should go to the printer in July. He asked members to submit and encourage others to submit articles for the journal.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Richard Conners presented the slate of the 1997-1999 officers: President - Susan McWhirter; Vice-Presidents: West Tennessee - Bob Ford, Middle Tennessee - Morris Williams, and East Tennessee - David Hassler; Secretary - Knox Martin; Treasurer - Dave Trently; Program Fund: West Tennessee - Jeannie Payne and Middle Tennessee - Bob Hatcher; Editor, *The Migrant* - Dev Joslin. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Ken Dubke presented a recommendation to move the Briley Fund and interest into an endowment fund and use the interest for the Program Fund Committee. A motion was made to accept the recommendation. Discussion included obligations owed to outstanding issues of *The Migrant* and the uncertainty of the exact amount to be owed. The motion failed, and the recommendation was tabled.

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS COMMITTEE: Chuck Nicholson reported on the progress of the Atlas. It should be ready by late fall.

BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE: Kevin Calhoon reported that the following two new appointments to the Committee will be made in the Fall: Paul Hertzel and, as alternate, Chris Sloan. Calhoon and Linda Northrup will move up from alternate.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: Ken Dubke reported that the Peregrine Falcon is becoming established in Tennessee again after 50 years.

COLLATERALS COMMITTEE: Carolyn Bullock reported on the funds for the patches and decals. A motion was made to proceed with the production of the decals. The cost of $500 will include $200 for artwork, which can be used for other collateral activity. Cost to members per decal will be $2.50. The motion passed unanimously.

WARBLER EDITOR: Theresa Graham reported that the next deadline is June 30, 1997. She encouraged members to send in articles about chapter news.

PARTNERS IN FLIGHT COMMITTEE: Susan Mardin reported for Bob Ford that plans are in process for Point Count Parcels to be sent out. Individuals interested in helping should call 901/327-1752. Ron Hoff encouraged members to support the project and also asked that the International Migratory Bird Day be an official TOS day, in conjunction with Partners in Flight and other organizations. A motion passed that the IMB Day, during the second weekend in May, be given status as an annual count by the TOS and that the results be published in *The Migrant*.

TECHNOLOGY AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE: James Brooks reported that Andy Jones is the new "webmaster" for the TOS Web page. The address is: http://funnelweb.utcc.utk.edu/~awjones/TOS.html. Wallace Coffey continues to produce "Valley Birds," a computer newsline, serving those signed up for its listserver.

PROJECT FUNDING COMMITTEE: Marcia Davis reported the awarding of the Dr. Katherine A. Goodpasture Memorial Grant in Field Ornithology to Melinda Wilson for her research project, "Conservation of the Golden-winged Warbler at Hampton Creek Cove in Carter County, Tennessee." Marcia Davis reported on the Osprey Nest Platform Project. Platforms in place at Mariners Pointe Platform on Ft. Loudoun Lake, Knox County and Lyons Island, Ft. Loudoun Lake are being used, and another on the Worthington Tract, Melton Hill Lake, Anderson County, has not been utilized. Members involved in the project are willing to assist other chapters in participating in this project. The cost of materials is approximately $90, including a 40-foot pole.

OLD BUSINESS: Martha Waldron announced that there will be a Foray in Fayette County the weekend of May 23-26. Dave Trently will coordinate plans for a summer meeting in August at Reelfoot Lake. The Lebanon Chapter will host the Fall Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: Virginia Reynolds presented the by-laws changes proposed by the By-Laws Committee, explaining rationales. Motions were made and passed unanimously that:

— Article IX - Amendments be changed to read "Any voting member may propose an amendment to the Constitution by notifying all officers, Directors, local chapter presidents and secretaries of the proposed change, in writing by first-

class mail, thirty days before a meeting of the Board of Directors or by publication in the Society's newsletter thirty days prior to the Annual meeting."

— A new section (Sec.3) be added to Article VI - Committees: "An Executive Committee composed of the President, (President-Elect), Treasurer, Secretary and the three Vice-Presidents shall handle routine or extraordinary business that need not or cannot come before the entire Board of Directors due to time constraints. All actions of the committee shall be reported to the Board of Directors at its next meeting."

— A new section (Sec. 4) be added to Article VI - Committees: "No member shall serve as Chairman of more than one Standing Committee. The President shall make every effort to name a broad representation from the membership to all committees."

— This statement be added: "*The Tennessee Warbler* shall be the official newsletter of the Society. There should be at least two issues published each calendar year. A copy shall be sent to each member in good standing. An issue of *The Tennessee Warbler* shall be mailed at least thirty days before the Annual Meeting and shall contain a schedule of events, a proposed agenda for the meetings and proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws. The editor of *The Tennessee Warbler* shall be appointed by the President."

Dev Joslin presented a resolution concerning preservation of the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge Reservation from fragmentation and development. A motion was made and passed to adopt the resolution.

TOS SPRING BUSINESS MEETING

The Annual Business Meeting of TOS was held at the Ramada Inn in Chattanooga, TN at 7:30 PM following a banquet.

President James Brooks summarized the afternoon Directors meeting and announced the new URL for the TOS Web site:

http://funnelweb.utcc.utk.edu/~awjones/TOS.html

David Trently summarized the Treasurer's Report as given at the Directors meeting.

The Distinguished Service Award was presented to Ann Tarbell (see *Migrant* 68(1):7).

Bill Haley presented the speaker, Christopher Haney, wildlife ecologist with the Wilderness Society in Washington, D.C., and a research associate at the North Carolina State Museum of Natural Science. Haney spoke on "Bird Communities in Eastern Old Growth Forests."

Respectfully submitted,
HARRIETTE L. SPIEGEL, TOS Secretary

The Migrant, 68 (2): 55-60, 1997.

THE 1997 SPRING FIELD DAYS

by Frank D. Hixon

Nine individual counts were conducted in Tennessee for the 1997 Spring Field Days with a total of 204 species and 57,293 individuals seen. Species of note included Peregrine Falcon, two Rough-legged Hawks, Virginia Rail, 17 Soras, Common Tern, Willow Flycatcher, Brown Creeper, Marsh and Sedge Wrens, Golden-winged Warbler, Swainson's Warbler, and Lincoln's Sparrow. Also, West Tennessee, especially the Shelby County count, reported good numbers of shorebirds. In the table, CW indicates species seen during the count week (three days before or after the day of the actual count).

INFORMATION ON THE COUNTS

SHELBY COUNTY: 27 Apr.; 0730-1700; overcast with rain; temp. 50-60°F; 21 observers. Shelby County area. Buddy Beaver, Betty Baylock, David Baylock, Bob Browne, Carolyn Bullock, Lula Coffey, Jim Ferguson, Sue Ferguson, Martha Heinemann, Knox Martin, Leah McDonald, George Payne, Jeanne Payne, Bill Peeples, Rob Peeples, Virginia Reynolds, Martha Waldron (compiler- 1626 Yorkshire Drive, Memphis, TN 38119), Dick Whittington, John Zempel, Linda Zempel.

CLARKSVILLE & MONTGOMERY COUNTY: 10 May; sunny and calm; temp. 42-69°F; 9 observers in 5 parties with 8 feeder watchers; 89.5 party hours and 514 party miles. Field observers, Joe D. Allen, Joe Hall, Debbie Hamilton, Steve Hamilton, Ken Haskins, Ann Lowe, Gloria P. Milliken (compiler, 861 Vaughn Road, Clarksville, TN 37043), William D. Milliken, Stanley York Jr. Feeder watchers, Danielle Evans, Annie Heilman, Nancy Hughes, Mary Lou McReynolds, Hallena Minnehan, Sallie Noel, Anna Ragland, David Snyder.

COLUMBIA: 25 & 26 April; clear on 25, overcast on 26; temp 50-70°F; wind south 5-15 mph. Jan Brown, Bob Brown, Tom Edwards, William Jernigan, Kay Jones, Allyn Lay, Anne Lochridge, Bedford Lochridge, Mary Manthei, Cleo Mayfield, George Mayfield (compiler, 999 Sunnyside Dr., Columbia, TN 38401), Ingrid Shapiro.

MURFREESBORO: 3 & 4 May; partly cloudy and windy; temp. 60-65°F. Bertha Chrietzberg, Richard Hunter, Wilma Hunter (compiler, 3659 Wilson Onerall Rd, Murfreesboro, TN 37130), Tony Halterdien, Renee Halterdien, Dan Jackson, Mary Ann Jackson, David McCarroll, Carol McCarroll, George Neal, Matt Neuoberg, Jane Neuoberg, Ruth Odom, Gene Odom, Sam Reid, Tom Shepard, Fran Shepard, Jean Wilson, Ferrell Wilson, Terry Witt, Carol Witt.

PUTNAM COUNTY: 10 May; 0430-2000; fog then clear; wind 0-20 mph; temp. 37-64°F; 16 observers in 6 parties plus 1 feeder watcher. 558.5 party miles; 66.5 party hours; 2.5 hours and 58 miles owling. Eileen Cartwright, Daniel Combs, Ginger K. Ensor, Katrina H. Hunter, Graham S. Kash, Amy Mercer, Kevin Morgan, Michael O'Rourke, Thomas M.Saya, Joanne T. Schaefer, Shayne Shaefer, Richard Simmers, Barbara H. Stedman, Stephen J. Stedman (compiler: Tennessee Technological University, Box 5053, Cookeville, TN 38505), Winston Walden, Catherine Walden.

CHATTANOOGA: 10 May; 30 observers, 131 party hours, 647 miles by car, 31 on foot, 7 hours and 48 miles owling. Kevin Calhoun (compiler: 1185 Mountain Creek Rd., Apt 7, Chattanooga, TN 37405).

KNOX COUNTY: 27 May; 30 observers in 15 parties; 76.3 party hours; 286 miles by car and 37.3 by foot; 2 miles and .75 hours owling. Frank Bills, Debbie Blackburn, Sharon Bostick, Betty Reid Campbell, Jim Campbell, Howard Chitwood, Gail Clendenon, Steve Clendenon, Louise Collier, Bob Collier, Marcia Davis, Troy Ettel, Barbara Finney, Mary Laura French, Paul Hartigan, Tony Headrick, Audrey Hoff, Ron Hoff, Susan Hoyle, Joel Keebler, Tony Koella, Chester Massey, Truett Patterson, Laurie Pearl, Martha Rudolph, Beth Schilling, Boyd Sharp, Bill Sullivan, David Trently, Craig Walker.

GREENEVILLE: 26 April; 0600-2030; cloudy; wind SE 5 in a.m., SE 10 in p.m., temp. 40-64°F; open water, wild food crop good; 20 observers in 11 parties, plus 1 feeder watcher; 38 party hours, 26 by car, 8 by foot, 4 by boat, plus 8 at feeders; 264.5 party miles, 250 by car, 11.5 by foot, and 3 by boat. Cindi Britton, Mark Britton, Orland Britton, Phine Britton, Marjorie Earnest, King Gaut, Margaret Gaut, Juanita Heckert, Lenard Heckert, Henrietta Holt, Jim Holt (compiler: 311 Colonial Circle, Greeneville, Tn 37745), Alice Loftin, Don Miller, Richard Nevius, Willie Ruth Nevius, Helen Reed, JoAnne Routledge, Larry Routledge, Helen Spees, Royal Spees, Virginia Williams.

ELIZABETHTON: 26 April; 0445-2100; partly cloudy to cloudy; temp 30-64°F; wind SE, 0-10 mph; 32 observers in 10 parties; 90.5 party hours, plus 4 hours owling. Cool weather in April had delayed the arrival of many Neotropical migrants, as a few were conspicuously absent (i.e., Great Crested Flycatcher and Yellow-breasted Chat) and others were in notably low numbers (i.e., Red-eyed Vireo and Indigo Bunting). The Greater Scaup was a female with a clearly visible cheek patch. Ruth Baker, Rob Biller, James Brooks, Janet Brown, Wallace Coffey, Joy Crass, Mark Crass, Tess Cumbie, Jo Ann Detta, Martha Dillenbeck, Hal Dillenbick, Gilbert Durwin, Christy Fellows, Audrey Hoff, Marty Huber, Teresa Hutson-Feliu, Rick Knight (compiler: 804 North Hills Dr., Johnson City, Tn 37604), Jeff Larsen, Tom Laughlin, Janice Martin, Perry McDorman, Stephanie McDorman, Joe McGuiness, Tom McNeil, Charles Moore, John Shumate, Lorrie Shumate, Bryan Stevens, Kim Stroud, Glenn Swofford, Allan Trently, Gary Wallace.

THE 1997 SPRING FIELD DAYS

Species	Shelby	Montg	Columbia	Murf	Putnam	Chatt	Knox	Greene	Eliz	Total
Common Loon					1				3	4
Pied-billed Grebe	2		17		1	5			1	29
Double-crested Cormorant	1		113	1			51	4	11	181
Great Blue Heron	57	18	41	5	10	104	84	8	4	331
Great Egret	66	1	11		1		1			80
Snowy Egret	6	CW								6
Little Blue Heron	1						1			2
Cattle Egret	1	3	1			1				8
Green Heron	1	2	10	1	4	13	7	2	13	53
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	9						1			10
Black-crowned Night-Heron				1			9	4		14
Canada Goose	27	54	243	50	133	282	139	83	138	1140
Wood Duck	58	8	24	4	26	45	35	32	72	306
Mallard	42	16	47	8	11	65	40	25	134	358
Blue-winged Teal	76	2	85	22	3	10	23	18	102	321
Northern Shoveler	7		1			9				17
American Wigeon									2	2
Ring-necked Duck			1							1
Greater Scaup									1	1
Lesser Scaup			1							1
Bufflehead									7	7
Red-breasted Merganser						3			10	13
Ruddy Duck			1							1
Black Vulture	3	50	61	55	6	17	15	14	7	228
Turkey Vulture		45	123	50	38	75	27	42	57	457
Osprey			2	1		1	8	1	10	23
Bald Eagle						1				1
Northern Harrier		1			1			3		5
Sharp-shinned Hawk		1	9			3	3			16
Cooper's Hawk		3	2	2	7	3	6	1	2	26
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	6	2		6	18	2			35
Broad-winged Hawk	6	1	1		6	7	7	3	8	39
Red-tailed Hawk	1	17	40	19	19	29	6	4	10	145
Rough-legged Hawk			1				1			2
American Kestrel	1	6	30	18	16	3	5	18	23	120
Peregrine Falcon						1				1
Ruffed Grouse								1	15	16
Wild Turkey	4	8	13		1	6		4	1	39
Northern Bobwhite	3	43	28	9	14	39	1	5		142
Virginia Rail			2							2
Sora	1	CW	6			9			1	17
American Coot	16		98	4		1	5	5	53	182
Semipalmated Plover	3	3				1				7
Killdeer	30	36	38	36	30	44	53	43	50	398
Black-necked Stilt	17									17
Greater Yellowlegs	13	CW	10					9	3	32
Lesser Yellowlegs	259		23	1		2	6	14	5	310
Solitary Sandpiper	155	7	41	15	3	3	17	18	65	324
Willet	1		1	15		1				18
Spotted Sandpiper	11	5	2	1	4	9	8	10	21	67
Semipalmated Sandpiper	4	10	1			1				16
Least Sandpiper	312	CW	6	6	1	8	5		12	350
Pectoral Sandpiper	268		13	3			7	15	4	310
Dunlin	1									1
Stilt Sandpiper	8									8
Short-billed Dowitcher	1									1
Common Snipe		CW	2			2	2		3	11
American Woodcock		CW			1					1
Wilson's Phalarope	1									1
Bonaparte's Gull				1					12	13

Species	Shelby	Montg	Columbia	Murf	Putnam	Chatt	Knox	Greene	Eliz	Total
Ring-billed Gull	50			1		14	3		34	102
Caspian Tern				4					3	7
Common Tern									2	2
Forster's Tern			8						2	10
Rock Dove	76	28	111	100	106	76	217	146	119	979
Mourning Dove	57	190	112	100	166	181	283	173	215	1477
Black-billed Cuckoo				2		1				3
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1	1			3	8	1			14
Barn Owl									1	1
Eastern Screech Owl			8	3	3	4		2	3	23
Great Horned Owl		6	6	3	1	3			1	20
Barred Owl	4	7	8		7	2	7		2	38
Common Nighthawk	1	27		2	4	2			1	37
Chuck-will's-widow		5	3		5	10	1			24
Whip-poor-will		9	10		27	53		2	27	128
Chimney Swift	37	146	39	770	164	300	245	92	172	1965
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	6	14	7	16	9	9	5	6	11	83
Belted Kingfisher	1	8	15	3	7	9	11	7	15	76
Red-headed Woodpecker	19	13	7	9	7	3		3	3	64
Red-bellied Woodpecker	42	70	87	22	48	73	72	26	30	470
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker				1	1			1		3
Downy Woodpecker	11	27	83	17	29	39	27	15	22	270
Hairy Woodpecker	2	5	6	2	6	5	12	2	2	42
Northern Flicker	5	12	4	7	15	21	43	13	33	153
Pileated Woodpecker	9	9	23		15	14	14	12	32	128
Eastern Wood-Pewee	2	49	28	6	61	24		22	1	193
Acadian Flycatcher	6	9		2	28	6	1			52
Willow Flycatcher		1								1
Least Flycatcher		1		2	1	1				5
Eastern Phoebe		38	57	6	34	17	13		24	189
Great Crested Flycatcher	5	31	3	13	20	65	7			144
Eastern Kingbird	7	56	59	40	49	75	34	14	9	343
Horned Lark	4		1		12					17
Purple Martin	9	51	19	45	168	74	39	16	58	479
Tree Swallow	1	3	23		16	8	38	12	122	223
N. Rough-winged Swallow	28	83	74	6	79	141	77	28	113	629
Bank Swallow				3	4	3	7	6	2	25
Cliff Swallow			10		3	313	77		30	433
Barn Swallow	125		99	45	141	281	146	104	129	1070
Blue Jay	15	115	302	108	124	144	238	113	217	1376
American Crow	18	117	172	500	133	293	221	125	235	1814
Fish Crow	13									13
Common Raven								7		7
Carolina Chickadee	34	86	117	35	115	193	165	48	123	916
Tufted Titmouse	64	104	95	30	113	164	143	24	102	839
Red-breasted Nuthatch	1									1
White-breasted Nuthatch	2	20	13		13	23	9	2	19	101
Brown-headed Nuthatch						17				17
Brown Creeper				1						1
Carolina Wren	63	78	39	21	77	90	102	26	62	558
House Wren		8	7	6	18	1	16	11	17	84
Winter Wren	3									3
Marsh Wren						1			2	3
Sedge Wren							2			2
Golden-crowned Kinglet			1						26	27
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3	2	4	2	1	1	28	1	11	53
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	83	67	132	5	103	133	116	13	108	760
Eastern Bluebird	7	160	155	93	134	200	91	106	97	1043
Veery	3	4			2	6			1	16
Gray-cheeked Thrush		2			1	4				7

Species	Shelby	Monig	Columbia	Murf	Putnam	Chatt	Knox	Greene	Eliz	Total
Swainson's Thrush	41	11	1	8	39	57				157
Hermit Thrush	8							1	1	10
Wood Thrush	39	35	23	2	71	33	140	2	15	360
American Robin	30	298	244	129	331	283	333	275	622	2545
Gray Catbird		19	6	11	32	21	8	1	1	99
Northern Mockingbird	12	115	100	79	48	124	107	65	88	738
Brown Thrasher	5	39	39	20	50	85	54	30	35	355
American Pipit									21	21
Cedar Waxwing	28		34		12	85	24	10	45	238
Loggerhead Shrike		11	11	4		1		1	1	29
European Starling	16	382	1314	100	535	486	782	920	729	5234
White-eyed Vireo	42	48	184	8	97	49	45	4	3	480
Blue-headed Vireo	1	2			4	3	8	1	23	42
Yellow-throated Vireo	7	9	7		35	7	16	3	1	85
Warbling Vireo		15	3	1	1		3			23
Philadelphia Vireo		5			1	1				7
Red-eyed Vireo	22	40	51	17	383	208	108	4	12	845
Blue-winged Warbler	5	2	22	1	17	1	20		3	71
Golden-winged Warbler						1				1
Tennessee Warbler	35	77	2	4	43	23	1			185
Orange-crowned Warbler							2			2
Nashville Warbler		1	3	2	2	1	5		1	15
Northern Parula	62	9	11		30	6	3	1	33	155
Yellow Warbler		12	25	10	51	7	6		21	132
Chestnut-sided Warbler	4	8	1	8	13	29	1		1	65
Magnolia Warbler		21		2	17	20	1			61
Cape May Warbler		2		1	15	7	2			27
Black-throated Blue Warbler						1			33	34
Yellow-rumped Warbler	36	17	292	21	28	12	275	47	90	818
Black-throated Green Warbler	2	5	1	10	25	12	15	3	102	175
Blackburnian Warbler		5	1		2	3	3			14
Yellow-throated Warbler	2	9	20	1	25	5	3		4	69
Pine Warbler	1	2	9		29	29	12	1	12	95
Prairie Warbler		34	43	10	81	71	32	1	1	273
Palm Warbler	14	23	39	14	1	16	26	3		136
Bay-breasted Warbler		4		2	17	6				29
Blackpoll Warbler		18	1	15	17	23				74
Cerulean Warbler	6	2	8		11	2	13			42
Black-and-white Warbler	1	4	4	8	76	12	13		48	166
American Redstart	21	7	1	1	55	12	5		5	107
Prothonotary Warbler	36	13	27	1		2		11	1	91
Worm-eating Warbler	1	3	2		10	1	27	1	9	54
Swainson's Warbler	1	1								2
Ovenbird	3	4	5	2	85	9	58	3	57	226
Northern Waterthrush		CW	4	5	5	9		1	1	25
Louisiana Waterthrush	7	6	4		8	8	4	2	16	55
Kentucky Warbler	38	3	33		42	11	3		3	133
Common Yellowthroat	30	62	72	5	155	64	83	5	5	481
Hooded Warbler	2	1	10	2	40	6	50	3	75	189
Wilson's Warbler		2			2					4
Canada Warbler				1	1	7				9
Yellow-breasted Chat		16	3	6	79	73	2	1		180
Summer Tanager	23	18	31	1	60	12	8	1		154
Scarlet Tanager	4	5	16	2	62	48	41	1	5	184
Northern Cardinal	92	228	400	73	224	318	360	90	188	1973
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	8	59	13	21	20	20	9		1	151
Blue Grosbeak	5	3	2	7	15	9	7		2	50
Indigo Bunting	179	153	115	34	377	223	26	3	5	1115
Dickcissel		28		3	2					33
Eastern Towhee	8	107	119	25	104	146	118	31	115	773

Species	Shelby	Monig	Columbia	Murf	Putnam	Chatt	Knox	Greene	Eliz	Total
Chipping Sparrow	5	33	74	21	139	60	79	19	39	469
Field Sparrow	19	46	120	33	108		93	17	18	456
Vesper Sparrow									1	1
Lark Sparrow				3						3
Savannah Sparrow	29	2	18	1		11	33		13	107
Grasshopper Sparrow		5	12	10	3		14	1	2	47
Song Sparrow		2	3	4	171	137	197	35	172	721
Lincoln's Sparrow					1	1				2
Swamp Sparrow	9	1	15			6	7	3	15	56
White-throated Sparrow	188	2	90	27	4	7	185	62	99	664
White-crowned Sparrow	8	6	16	3			3	10	13	59
Dark-eyed Junco			1				1		53	55
Bobolink	93	67		6		36	1			203
Red-winged Blackbird	85	193	550	600	523	25	310	183	387	2856
Eastern Meadowlark	26	148	152	57	183	102	138	131	237	1174
Rusty Blackbird								2		2
Common Grackle	104	190	451	800	159	289	304	299	533	3129
Brown-headed Cowbird	78	115	54	21	78	61	75	31	71	584
Orchard Oriole	5	30	21		58	16	11	4	1	126
Northern Oriole	5	12	7	3	5	9		2		43
Purple Finch			5							5
House Finch	7	86	27	24	62	86	81	23	38	436
American Goldfinch	94	261	426	77	92	192	277	94	220	1733
House Sparrow	3	94	58	100	82	83	80	32	106	638
Total Individuals	3900	5286	8538	4826	7591	7747	7801	4030	7574	57293
Total Species	128	133	142	120	135	149	128	106	138	

The Migrant, 68 (2): 61-67, 1997.

THE SEASON

Richard L. Knight, Editor

WINTER: 1 DECEMBER 1996 - 28 FEBRUARY 1997

This winter was regarded as mild all across the state, with comparatively little snow. Boreal irruptives were generally absent. Several "half-hardy" species lingered from autumn, as often happens during mild winters.

Geese were the major highlight of the period. Snow Geese were found in all four regions, with apparent new high state count of five thousand in Lake County. Even more impressive was the Ross' Goose spectacle, with reports from all regions except the Eastern Mountains. Truly amazing was the count of 27 Ross' Geese at Reelfoot. Not to be outdone, Greater White-fronted Geese also appeared in all regions except the Mountains.

Other good waterbirds included Red-throated Loons and Tundra Swans in two regions each, Eared Grebes wintering for the second consecutive year at South Holston Lake in the Mountain region, and a Eurasian Wigeon in the West.

I thank Richard Lewis for computer assistance in the editing of this report.

WESTERN COASTAL PLAIN REGION: During the winter season, many of the usual birds were accompanied by several infrequent visitors, such as a record number of Ross' Geese, plus Oldsquaw, Eurasian Wigeon and Red Crossbill. Early arrival dates were set by Mississippi Kite, Broad-winged Hawk and American Golden-Plover. The Sandhill Cranes returned for the third consecutive winter. Although temperatures were normal, the season was marked with above average rainfall, making roads impassable in isolated areas. TWRA made monthly aerial surveys of Wildlife Management Areas in West Tennessee; specific information for sites, species and numbers are available from the regional compiler. Ducks: 9 Dec. (155,257), 14 Jan. (189,570), 20 Feb. (246,735); geese: 9 Dec. (306), 14 Jan. (14,232), 20 Feb. (10,242); coots: 9 Dec. (226), 14 Jan. (850), 20 Feb. (206).

Loon-Duck: **Common Loon**: 6 & 11 Dec (1) Great River Rd., Dyer Co. (WGC). **Horned Grebe**: 7 Dec - 15 Feb (1) spillway, Reelfoot Lake SP (WGC); 21 Dec (4) Reelfoot CBC. **Black-crowned Night-Heron**: 21 Dec (1 ad) Reelfoot CBC (Robert Foehring, MAG, Dan Neiling, NaM). **Tundra Swan**: 5 & 23 Jan (5 ad, 2 im) Lauderdale WMA (WGC, MAG, TWRA), 14 Jan (1) Lower Hatchie NWR (TWRA); 20 Feb (1) South Fork of Forked Deer & (12) up river at confluence of Middle & North Fork of the Forked Deer, Lauderdale Co. (TWRA). **Greater White-fronted Goose**: 3 Dec - 19 Jan (50+) Lauderdale WMA (WGC, VBR); 21 Dec (40) Reelfoot

CBC; 2 Jan (2) Shelby Farms (VBR); 21 Jan - 20 Feb (300 max) Lake Co., 16 Feb (330) Whites Lake WMA (WGC). **Snow Goose**: 20 Jan - 19 Feb (5000+) Lake Co. (WGC). **Ross' Goose**: 21 Jan - 19 Feb (27 max) Long Point, Reelfoot NWR (WGC), state high. **EURASIAN WIGEON**: 1 Jan (1 m) Lauderdale WMA (MAG). **Ring-necked Duck**: 26 Jan (1500+) Robco Lake (CHB, VBR). **Greater Scaup**: 21 Dec (2) Reelfoot CBC. **Lesser Scaup**: 23 Feb (1000+) EARTH Complex (VBR). **Oldsquaw**: 3 & 7 Dec (1 m, 2 f) Reelfoot NWR (WGC). **Hooded Merganser**: 21 Dec (622) Reelfoot CBC. **Ruddy Duck**: 26 Jan (1000+) Robco Lake (CHB, VBR).

Kite-Tern: **Mississippi Kite**: 28 Feb (1) Memphis (SCF), early state record. **Bald Eagle**: 6-12 Dec (1 ad, 2 im) Whites Lake WMA, (2 im) Everett Lake, Dyer Co.; 26 Dec (1 ad) Indian Creek Watershed Lake #10 (WGC); 10 Jan (1 im) Whites Lake WMA, (1 ad) Moss Is. WMA, Dyer Co., (1 im) Open Lake, Lauderdale Co. (DDP); 14 Jan (3 ad, 3 im) Chickasaw NWR, Lauderdale Co. (BJC, DDP, MTOS); 14 Jan (1 ad) Sunk Lake WMA, (2 ad, 2 im) Lower Hatchie NWR (BJC); 19 Jan (1 im) Lauderdale WMA (WGC); 31 Jan (1 im) western Hardeman Co. (CHB, SCF, VBR, Gail Kiracofe). This report reflects areas where in the past eagles have not been seen; mostly these are relatively new WMA's. **Sharp-shinned Hawk**: single reports from Shelby, Tipton, Hardeman & Haywood Cos. **Cooper's Hawk**: 3 reports from Shelby Co., 2 from Hardeman Co. & 1 from Obion Co. These accipiter reports are in addition to CBC's. **Broad-winged Hawk**: 19 Feb (1) Tipton Co. (DDP), early state arrival. **"Harlan's" Red-tailed Hawk**: 19 Feb (1) EARTH Complex (CHB, VBR, MGW). **Golden Eagle**: 10 Jan (1 im) Whites Lake WMA (DDP). **Merlin**: 21 Dec (1) Reelfoot CBC; 20 Jan (1) Shelby Co. (Robert Hardi). **Peregrine Falcon**: 1 Dec - 19 Jan (1) Memphis (Charles McCrary, Martha Heineman, N. P. McWhirter). **Sandhill Crane**: 31 Dec (14) Hop-In WMA, Obion Co. (MAG); 11-17 Jan (4) Hatchie NWR, Haywood Co. (Glen Stanley); 14 Jan (7) Upper Obion River, Obion Co. (BJC). **American Golden-Plover**: 27 Feb (5) Shelby Farms (VBR), early state record by one day. **Lesser Yellowlegs**: 19 & 23 Feb (1-2) Black Bayou WMA (WGC). **Dunlin**: 21 Dec (1) Reelfoot CBC. **American Woodcock**: 2 & 22 Feb (10 & 9) Wolf River WMA (SNM, MGW); 24-25 Feb (1-2) Memphis (SCF, James Ferguson). **Bonaparte's Gull**: 23 Jan & 6 Feb (33 max) Lake Co., 23 Jan - 15 Feb (20) Obion Co. (WGC). **Forster's Tern**: 21 Dec (1) Reelfoot CBC (NaM, JRW).

Crow-Crossbill: **Fish Crow**: 28 Dec (5) U. T. Agricultural Exp. Station, Madison Co. (MAG). **House Wren**: 22 Dec (1) Memphis CBC. **Marsh Wren**: 21 Dec (1) Reelfoot CBC (MAG, Dan Neiling); 18 Feb (1) Shelby Farms (VBR). **Orange-crowned Warbler**: 12 Dec (1) Whites Lake WMA (WGC). **Common Yellowthroat**: 21 Dec (1) Reelfoot CBC (NaM, JRW). **American Tree Sparrow**: 21 Dec - 20 Feb (45 max) Reelfoot Lake SP/Black Bayou WMA (WGC, MTOS). **LeConte's Sparrow**: 2 Feb (1) Wolf River WMA (SNM, MGW). **Western Meadowlark**: 21 Dec (1+ heard) Reelfoot CBC (NaM, JRW). **Purple Finch**: 22 Dec (50) Memphis CBC, max. **Red Crossbill**: 2 & 6 Feb (2 & 8) Pine Grove Bluff, Lenox Hills, Dyer Co. (WGC).

Locations: Black Bayou WMA-in Lake Co.; EARTH Complex-in Shelby Co.; Lauderdale WMA-in Lauderdale Co.; Lower Hatchie NWR-in Tipton Co.; Reelfoot Lake SP-in Lake Co.; Reelfoot NWR-in Obion Co.; Robco Lake-in Shelby Co.; Shelby Farms-in Shelby Co.; Whites Lake WMA-in Dyer Co.; Wolf River WMA-in Fayette Co.

MARTHA G. WALDRON, 1626 Yorkshire Drive, Memphis, TN 38119

HIGHLAND RIM AND BASIN REGION: For the three-month winter season the weather was generally slightly warmer and somewhat wetter than average, with nearly 12" of precipitation in Nashville. As might be expected from the warmer temperatures, the total snowfall amount was quite low, only 3.5" for the quarter, in Nashville. The season was wetter to the north and west of Nashville. Irruptive species (e.g. Pine Siskin, Evening Grosbeak, Red-breasted Nuthatch, and Purple Finch) were scarce. Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge was a port of call for several rare, middle Tennessee, winter visitors. Unfortunately, many of the reports come from just a few individuals.

Loon-Merlin: **RED-THROATED LOON**: 1 Jan (1) Cross Cr NWR (TJW), rare winter visitor. **Horned Grebe**: 23 Feb (575+) Center Hill Lake, DeKalb Co. (Stephen J. Stedman), a state record high count. **Double-crested Cormorant**: 28 Dec (10) Cross Cr NWR (CAS); 1 Jan (14) Old Hickory Lake, Sumner Co. (CAS); 4 Jan (300) Duck River (MLB, TC, AJS). **Tundra Swan**: 19 Jan (2 ad, 3 im) Cross Cr NWR (TJW, DMN). **Snow Goose**: 28 Dec (22 white, 8 blue morph) Cross Cr NWR (CAS); 1 Jan (1 im) Monsanto Ponds, Maury Co. (Wendal Robinson). **Ross' Goose**: 28 Dec (1) Cross Cr NWR (CAS); 15 Jan (1) Shelby Park Lake, Nashville, Davidson Co. (Mark Hackney); 19 Jan (2) Cross Cr NWR (TJW, DMM), rare migrant in Tennessee. **Greater White-fronted Goose**: 28 Dec (8) Cross Cr NWR (CAS); 4 Jan (50) Humphreys Co. (MLB, TC, AJS). **Northern Pintail**: 4 Jan (100) Duck River (MLB, TC, AJS). **Common Goldeneye**: 13 Dec (3 m, 2 f) Drake's Creek, Sumner Co. (CAS); 1,4 Jan (8, 6) Old Hickory Lake, Sumner Co. (CAS). **Hooded Merganser**: 12 Dec (160) Franklin Sewage Pond, Williamson Co. (MLB). **Common Merganser**: 1 Jan (1 f) Old Hickory Lake, Davidson Co. (CAS); 28 Dec (25) Cross Cr NWR (CAS); 19 Jan (1 f) Cross Cr NWR (TJW, DMM). **Red-breasted Merganser**: 1-14 Jan (1 m) Old Hickory Lake, Davidson Co. (CAS). **Black Vulture**: 21 Dec (160) South Harpeth, Williamson Co. (Hazel Cassel, Edwin Gleaves, Ed Byrne), in a single kettle, sighted during the Nashville CBC. The total of 267 seen for the day is the largest number recorded in 31 years. **Bald Eagle**: 10 Dec (1 ad) Radnor Lake (Suzanne Davis, m. ob.); 14 Dec (1) Coleman Lake, Davidson Co. (Linn Ann Welch); 7 Jan (1) Radnor Lake (LAW); 23 Feb (1) incubating, Dickson/Cheatham Co. line (VJS). **Northern Harrier**: 28 Dec (2 f) Cross Cr NWR (CAS). **Rough-legged Hawk**: 9 Dec (1) near Monsanto, Maury Co. (Bedford Lockridge). **Golden Eagle**: 18 Dec (1) Dover, Stewart Co., NTOS field trip; 22 Feb (1) Swan Lake, Cheatham Co. (Hazel Cassel, Richard Conners). **Peregrine Falcon**: 27 Jan (1) Pennington Bend, Davidson Co. (MLM), rare winter resident. **Merlin**: 13-14 Jan (1) Murfreesboro, Rutherford Co. (TJW), rare winter resident.

Turkey-Waxwing: **Wild Turkey**: 28 Dec (40) Cross Cr NWR (CAS). **Sandhill Crane**: 8 Feb (3) flying over Cumberland River, Cheatham Co. (VJS), uncommon migrant. **American Woodcock**: 25 Jan (3) Warren Co. (SNM). **Ruby-throated Hummingbird**: 19 Dec (1 ad m) Hendersonville, Sumner Co. (CAS). **Red-headed Woodpecker**: 28 Dec (1) Cross Cr NWR (CAS); 28 Dec - 8 Feb (4) Warren Co. (SNM). **Eastern Phoebe**: 28 Dec (1) Cross Cr NWR (CAS); 4 Jan (1) Duck River (MLB, TC, AJS); 20 Feb (1) Radnor Lake (MLM). **Golden-crowned Kinglet**: 15 Dec (10) Old Hickory Nature Trail, Davidson Co. (MLB). **Cedar Waxwing**: 8 Feb (large flock) South Nashville, Davidson Co. (Joe McCrary).

Warbler-Finch: **Pine Warbler**: 15 Dec (1) Old Hickory Nature Trail, Davidson

Co. (MLB). **Palm Warbler**: 21 Dec (1) Williamson Co. (Louise Jackson, Ann Tarbell), on Nashville CBC; 29 Dec (2) Warren Co. (SNM). **Black-throated Blue Warbler**: 3 Dec (1 m) Cookeville, Putnam Co. (Barbara and Steven Stedman), second Tenn. Dec. record. **Indigo Bunting**: 4 Jan (1 m molting) Duck River (MLB, TC, AJS); 20 Feb (1 singing) Franklin, Williamson Co. (Rita Venable), rare winter visitor. **Savannah Sparrow**: 28 Dec (100) Cross Cr NWR (CAS); 8 Feb (8) Cheatham Co. (VJS, Sabin Thompson). **LeConte's Sparrow**: 28 Dec (6) Cross Cr NWR (CAS). **American Tree Sparrow**: 28 Jan (1) feeding on lawn, Pennington Bend, Davidson Co. (MLM), rare unless an "invasion" year. **Chipping Sparrow**: 20 Feb (1 singing) near Radnor Lake (MLM); 28 Dec (8) Warren Co. (SNM). **Fox Sparrow**: 28 Dec (3) Cross Cr NWR (CAS); 1 Jan (1) Old Hickory Lake, Davidson Co. (CAS). **Baltimore Oriole**: 4-11 Jan (1) Culleoha, Maury Co. (Bobby and Janet Brown). **Purple Finch**: 19 Jan (large flock) Ft. Campbell, Montgomery Co. (TJW); 7 Dec (12) Coffee Co. (John Walton); 22 Feb (4 pair) Mooresville Pike, Maury Co. (Mary Lyles).

Locations: Cross Cr NWR-Cross Creeks NWR, Stewart Co.; Duck River-Duck River Unit, Tenn. NWR, Humphreys Co.; Radnor Lake in Davidson Co.

FRANCIS C. FEKEL, 998 Todd Preis Dr., Nashville, TN 37221

ADDENDUM I: Records from Warren Co., all dates 1996 (SNM). **Double-crested Cormorant**: 31 Aug, 5 Oct (1). **Great Egret** and **Black-crowned Night-Heron**: 31 Jul (1 each). **Mute Swan**: 10 Feb (2 ad, 4 im), origin? **Cooper's Hawk**: 16 Jun & 31 Jul (1). **American Kestrel**: 18 May (4), 16 Jun (5). **American Woodcock**: 2 Mar (4). **Barn Owl**: 19 Apr (1). **Great Horned Owl**: 10 Feb (1 on nest). **Red-headed Woodpecker**: 2-26 Mar (1-2), 5-19 Oct (2-4). **Eastern Kingbird**: 31 Aug (34). **Tree Swallow**: 18 May (2 entering nestbox), 31 Jul (used nest containing feathers removed from same nestbox). **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: 2 Mar (1). Loggerhead Shrike: 31 Jul (3 in one tree), family group. **Blue Grosbeak**: 18 May - 5 Oct (2-6). **Grasshopper Sparrow**: 18 May - 31 Aug (1-3), including a fledgling on 16 Jun.

ADDENDUM II: Banding records from Lewis Co., fall 1996 (George R. Mayfield, Jr). **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher**: 1 Oct (1). **Acadian Flycatcher**: 26 Sep (1), last. **White-eyed Vireo**: 14 Oct (1), last. **Golden-winged Warbler**: 1 Oct (1). **Orange-crowned Warbler**: 26 Sep & 21 Oct (1 each). **Magnolia Warbler**: 17 Oct (1), last. **Ovenbird**: 14 Oct (1), last. **Yellow-breasted Chat**: 1 Oct (1), last. **Indigo Bunting**: 3 Oct (50), max. **Lincoln's Sparrow**: 21 Oct (1).

CUMBERLAND PLATEAU/RIDGE AND VALLEY REGION: This was a rather mild winter. A brief cold snap just before Christmas and a two-week period of cold and snow in mid-January were the extent of wintry weather. The periods from Christmas through the first week of January, late January to early February, and the third week of February were especially warm. Precipitation was normal. Only four measurable snowfalls (1-4") occurred in the Johnson City area.

Many observers considered this a bland birding season, which was reflected in the low number of reports submitted. Snow Goose reports were well above normal. The region's first Ross' Goose was a "one day wonder" at Chattanooga. Duck maxima were not impressive, but are included for comparison. However, the burgeoning flock of wintering Sandhill Cranes around Hiwassee Island continues to impress. Two wren species and four warbler species lingered, no doubt due to the mild weather.

Loon-Duck: **Common Loon**: 21 Jan (26) Chickamauga L (KAC), max there; 15 Jan (3) Cherokee L (RLK). **Horned Grebe**: 21 Jan (28) Chickamauga L (KAC), max. **Double-crested Cormorant**: 1 Jan (171) Hiwassee CBC; 5+ all season at Kpt. (RLK, JWC et al.). **Great Egret**: 2-4 Jan (1) Nickajack L., Marion Co (KAC). **Black-crowned Night-Heron**: 6+ all season at Kpt. (JWC, RLK et al.). **Greater White-fronted Goose**: 15 Jan (2) Cherokee L, Grainger Co portion (RLK). **Snow Goose**: 11 Jan (10 blue, 3 white) Boone L, Sullivan Co portion (JWC, RMC, RBB), new high count for northeast Tenn.; 12 Jan (1) Sequatchie Co (KAC); 14 Jan (1) Chickamauga L (KAC); 18 Jan (8) Hiawassee River area, Meigs Co (TLR); 19 Jan (12) Nickajack L, Marion Co (TLR); 19-22 Jan (1 blue, 3 white) Greene Co (DHM, ACL); 21 Jan (1) Soddy-Daisy, Hmlt. Co (WGH). **ROSS' GOOSE**: 16 Jan (1) Chattanooga (Julia Gregory, David Hollaway, Otis Allen, KAC, m.ob.), first regional record. **Green-winged Teal**: 2 Feb (68) Bra Lev (KAC), max. **Northern Pintail**: 25 Jan (10) Bra Lev (TLR), max. **Blue-winged Teal**: 28 Dec (1) Chattanooga CBC (Barbara & Mike McMahan). **Northern Shoveler**: 13 Jan (30) Kpt. (RLK), max. **Gadwall**: 4 Jan (268) Nickajack CBC, max. **Canvasback**: 4 Jan (18) Nickajack CBC, max. **Redhead**: 26 Jan (18) Blount Co.(Karen Petry), max. **Ring-necked Duck**: 21 Jan (126) Kpt. (RLK), max. **Greater Scaup**: 21 Dec (1) Johson City (RLK); 4 Jan (77) Nickajack CBC, max; 13 Jan - 2 Feb (1-6) Kpt. (RLK et al.). **Lesser Scaup**: 2 Feb (74) Kpt. (RLK), max. **Common Goldeneye**: 12 Feb (58) Chickamauga L (KAC), max; 13-26 Jan (4-14) Kpt. (RLK et al.). **Hooded Merganser**: 1 Jan (202) Hiwassee CBC, max. **Ruddy Duck**: 4 Jan (75) Nickajack CBC, max.

Eagle-Hummingbird: **Bald Eagle**: 2 Feb (26 coming off roosts at sunrise) five creek gorges along eastern slope of Walden Ridge, Hmlt. Co (WGH et al.). **Peregrine Falcon**: 12 Jan (1) Rankin Bottoms, Cocke Co (DHM, ACL); 15 Feb (1) Greeneville (DHM, ACL). **Virginia Rail**: 1 Feb (1) Bra Lev (Rick Waldrop). **American Coot**: 4 Jan (4550) Nickajack CBC. **Sandhill Crane**: 1 Jan (4946) Hiwassee CBC. **Killdeer**: 30 Dec (240) Boone L during Kpt. CBC (RLK, Andy Jones). **Least Sandpiper**: 1 Jan (3) Hiwassee CBC. **Dunlin**: 1 Jan (13) Hiwassee CBC. **Common Snipe**: 1 Jan (59) Hiwassee CBC, max. **American Woodcock**: 4 Jan (7) Nickajack CBC. **Bonaparte's Gull**: 9 Dec - 18 Jan (11) Boone L (RLK); 15 Jan (15) Cherokee L (RLK); 21 Jan (201) Chickamauga L (KAC), max. **Ring-billed Gull**: 28 Dec (2721) Chattanooga CBC; 18 Jan (800) Boone L (RLK); 15 Jan (350) Cherokee L (RLK). **Herring Gull**: 4 Jan (31) Nickajack CBC, max; only 3 reports all season in northeast Tenn. **Eurasian Collared Dove**: 28 Dec (2) Chattanooga CBC. **Barn Owl**: 28 Dec (2) Greeneville CBC; 1 all season at Johnson City (RLK). **Rufous Hummngbird**: 26 Jan (1 ad male) Hmlt. Co (TLR), from last season.

Passerines: **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: Chattanooga CBC (1) & Hiwassee CBC (2), only reports. **Brown-headed Nuthatch**: recorded on Nickajack CBC for second consecutive year; 7 Dec (2) Kingston Steam Plant, Roane Co. (Dev Joslin). **House Wren**: 3 on Chattanooga CBC, 3 on Hiwassee CBC, 2 on Nickajack CBC. **Marsh Wren**: 28 Dec (2) separate sites on Chattanooga CBC (WGH, KAC); 1 Feb (1) Bra Lev (Rick Waldrop); 7 Feb (1) Kingston Steam Plant, Roane Co. (DJT). **Orange-crowned Warbler**: 28 Dec (1) Chattanooga CBC (WGH). **Yellow-throated Warbler**: 13 Jan (1) Kpt. (Kevin Pierce fide FJA), second winter record in northeast Tenn. **Pine Warbler**: 11-19 Jan (1) Oak Ridge (Dev Joslin). **Palm Warbler**: found on CBCs at Greeneville (2), Chattanooga (1), & Hiwassee (3); 12 Jan (2) Rankin Bottoms, Cocke Co (DHM, ACL); 26 Jan (1) Kpt. (JWC, LCM, RBB, Andy Jones). **Com-**

mon Yellowthroat: 25 Jan (1) Bra Lev (Libby Wolfe). **Chipping Sparrow**: 7 Dec/15 Feb (5/2) Kingston Steam Plant, Roane Co. (Dev Joslin). **Purple Finch**: Sparse reports. **Pine Siskin/Evening Grosbeak**: no reports.

Addendum: **ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD**: 21 Nov - 29 Dec (1 banded) Knoxville (Bob Sargent and Paul Pardue; the second regional & state record.

Locations: Boone L-in Sullivan & Washington Cos; Bra Lev-Brainerd Levee, Hamilton Co; Cherokee L-Grainger, Hamblen, & Jefferson Cos portion; Chickamauga L-Hamilton Co portion; Hmlt. Co-Hamilton Co; Kpt.-Kingsport, Sullivan Co.

RICHARD L. KNIGHT, 804 North Hills Drive, Johnson City, TN 37604

EASTERN MOUNTAIN REGION: This was an extremely mild winter. There were no lowland temperatures below zero and only a few days with single digit temperatures. Waterfowl were present in fairly good numbers with two locations being very productive: South Holston Lake at the VA-TN line and the weir below South Holston Dam. Eared Grebes were at South Holston Lake for the entire period. Irruptive species were very low. Even American Goldfinch were not in their usual abundance, presumably because of the mild weather.

Loon-Merganser: **Common Loon**: 14 Jan (1) Watauga L. (RLK); 19 Jan (4) S. Hol. L. (RLK). **RED-THROATED LOON**: 1 Dec (1) S. Hol. L. (LCM, JAM, JWC). **Horned Grebe**: 21 Dec/14 Jan (8-9) Wat. L. (RLK); 9 Dec/19 Jan (10-7) S. Hol. L. (RLK); 24 Feb (32) S. Hol. L. (RHP), max. **EARED GREBE**: 19 Jan (16) S. Hol. L. (RLK), max. **Pied-billed Grebe**: 24 Feb (170) S. Hol. L. (RHP), NE Tenn. record count. **Snow Goose**: 29 Dec/14 Jan (1 blue morph) Mountain City, Johnson Co. (JWC et al. / RLK); 18 Jan (1 im) S. Hol. R. @ weir (JWC); 19 Jan (1 white morph) S. Hol. R. @ Hwy 44 bridge (RLK). **Wood Duck**: up to 5 all season at Fishery Park (GWS, BKS et al.). **Green-winged Teal**: 23 Jan thru EOP (1 m) Fishery Park (GWS, BKS). **American Black Duck**: 17 Feb (20) Chota (DJT). **Northern Pintail**: 21 Jan (3) Middlebrook L. (Teresa Hutson-Feliu). **Gadwall**: 22 Jan (8) Middlebrook L. (Kevin Hamed); Jan thru EOP (6) Fishery Park (GWS, BKS); 17 Feb (25) Bristol Industrial Park Pond, Sullivan Co.,max. **American Wigeon**: 23 Jan thru EOP (2) Fishery Park (GWS, BKS); 2 Feb (60) S. Hol. R. @ weir (JWC et al.), max. **Canvasback**: 18 Jan (13) Middlebrook L. (JWC). **Redhead**: 21 Dec - 9 Feb (3-5) Wilbur L. (RLK et al.), max there; 2 Feb (12) S. Hol. R. @ weir (JWC et al.), max. **Ring-necked Duck**: 9 Jan (47) Weaver Pike, Sullivan Co. (JWC). **Greater Scaup**: 21 Dec - 9 Feb (1-2) Wilbur L. (FJA, BKS et al.). **Bufflehead**: 14 Jan (102) Wilbur L. (RLK), max. there; 19 Jan (108) S. Hol. R. @ weir (RLK), max there. **Hooded Merganser**: 22 Jan (81) Middlebrook L. (Kevin Hamed).

Vulture-Gull: **Black Vulture**: 1 Dec (75) S. Hol. L. (LCM, JAM, JWC). **Osprey**: 24 Feb (1) S. Hol. L. (RHP), ers. **Bald Eagle**: 1 Dec - 24 Feb (1 im., 1 ad.) S. Hol. L. (RBB, RMC et al.). **Red-shouldered Hawk**: 19 Dec (1) S. Hol. L. (LCM, JWC, Andy Jones); 29 Dec (1) Shady Valley & (1) Doeville, Johnson Co. (RLK et al.); 19 Jan (5) Cades Cove, GSMNP (FJA). **Northern Bobwhite**: 9 Feb (20) Holston V. (RPL), in one covey, largest number seen at this location in several years. **Common Snipe**: at least 5 stayed thru the bitter cold of mid Jan at Watauga R. (RLK, FJA et al.). **Bonaparte's Gull**: 17 Jan (6) S. Hol. L. (RBB); 2 Feb (3) S. Hol. L. (JWC et al.). **Ring-billed Gull**: 14 Jan (42) Wat. L. (RLK), max there.

Nuthatch-Siskin: **Red-breasted Nuthatch**: only reports from spruce-fir belt at Roan Mt. except for 1 at Heaton Creek, Carter Co. (Tom Laughlin). **Palm Warbler**: 28 Dec (2) Bristol CBC at different locations, new species for this count. **Savannah Sparrow**: 17 Feb (51) Eliz. (JWC et al.), max, high. **Fox Sparrow**: 17 Feb (3) Chota (DJT). **Lincoln's Sparrow**: 21 Dec (1) Wat. L. @ dam (FJA), Eliz. CBC. **Purple Finch**: 3-4 thru period at Holston V. (RPL), otherwise only a few feeder reports (6 max) (FJA, BKS). **Red Crossbill**: 14 Dec (1) Indian Gap, GSMNP (RPL), only report. **Pine Siskin**: 21 Dec (1) Wat. L. (RLK), Eliz. CBC; 2-4 thru season on top of Roan Mt. (RLK). **Evening Grosbeak**: no reports.

Addendum: **Sandhill Crane**: 27 Nov (30) Wear Valley, Sevier Co. (Tom and Florence Roehm, fide DJT).

Locations: Chota in Monroe Co; Eliz.-Elizabethton, Carter Co.; Fishery Park in Erwin, Unicoi Co.; GSMNP-Great Smoky Mountains National Park; Holston V.-Holston Valley, eastern Sullivan Co.; Middlebrook L.-Middlebrook Lake, Sullivan Co.; Roan Mt.-Roan Mountain, Carter Co.; S. Hol. L.-South Holston Lake, Sullivan Co.; S. Hol. R.-South Holston River, Sullivan Co.; Wat. L.-Watauga Lake, Carter Co.; Wat. R.-Watauga River, Carter Co.; Wilbur L.-Wilbur Lake, Carter Co.

RICHARD P. LEWIS, 407 V. I. Ranch Road, Bristol, TN 37620

STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

ad - adult
CBC - Christmas Bird Count
Co. - County
et al. - and others
f - female
fide - reported by
im - immature
L - Lake
m - male
max - maximum one day count
m. ob. - many observers
NWR - National Wildlife Refuge
SP - State Park
WMA - Wildlife Management Area

OBSERVERS

FJA - Fred J. Alsop
MLB - Michael L. Bierly
RBB - Rob B. Biller
CHB - Carolyn H. Bullock
KAC - Kevin A. Calhoon
RMC - Ron M. Carrico
TC - Theresa Clark
JWC - J. Wallace Coffey
BJC - B. Jack Colwick
WGC - William G. Criswell
SCF - Sue C. Ferguson
MAG - Mark A. Greene
WGH - William G. Haley
RLK - Richard L. Knight
RPL - Richard P. Lewis
ACL - Alice C. Loftin
MLM - Margaret L. Mann
DMM - David M. McCarroll
LCM - Larry C. McDanial
SNM - Susan N. McWhirter
DHM - Don H. Miller
NaM - Nancy Moore
JAM - Judy A. Musick
RHP - Richard H. Peake
DDP - Dick D. Preston
VBR - Virginia B. Reynolds
TLR - Tommie L. Rogers
AJS - A. Jeanece Seals
CAS - Chris A. Sloan
BKS - Bryan K. Stevens
VJS - V. Joe Stone
GWS - Glenn W. Swofford
DJT - David J. Trently
MGW - Martha G. Waldron
JRW - Jeff R. Wilson
TJW - Terry J. Witt
MTOS - Memphis Chapter TOS
NTOS - Nashville Chapter TOS
TWRA - Tenn. Wildlife Resources Agency

CONTENTS

RECOVERY EFFORTS RESULT IN RETURNED NESTING OF PEREGRINE FALCONS IN TENNESSEE
Richard L. Knight 33

TENNESSEE'S FIRST DOCUMENTED REDDISH EGRET
Christopher Sloan 40

KIRTLAND'S WARBLER IN TENNESSEE
Christopher E. Skelton and Roland W. Kays 42

TREE SWALLOW BREEDING ACCELERATING IN EAST TENNESSEE
J.B. Owen 44

STATE'S FIRST CURLEW SANDPIPER SIGHTED IN WEST TENNESSEE
William G. Criswell 46

FIRST RECORD OF SHINY COWBIRD IN TENNESSEE
Murray Gardler 47

RECORD OF ANHINGA NESTING IN TENNESSEE
Nancy Moore and Terry Pride 48

OBSERVATIONS OF A HERONRY IN DYER COUNTY
Jim Johnson 49

RECENT CHANGES IN TAXONOMY
Richard L. Knight 49

SABINE'S GULLS SIGHTED IN LAKE COUNTY, TENNESSEE
William G. Criswell 50

ARTICLES SCHEDULED FOR UPCOMING *MIGRANT* ISSUES 51

NOMINATIONS FOR IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS IN TENNESSEE BEING ACCEPTED 51

MINUTES OF SPRING 1997 TOS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING 52

TOS SPRING BUSINESS MEETING 54

THE 1997 SPRING FIELD DAYS
Susan N. McWhirter 55

THE SEASON — WINTER: 1 DECEMBER 1996-28 FEBRUARY 1997
Richard L. Knight 61

WESTERN COASTAL PLAIN REGION
Martha G. Waldron 61

HIGHLAND RIM AND BASIN REGION
Francis C. Fekel 63

CUMBERLAND PLATEAU/RIDGE AND VALLEY REGION
Richard L. Knight 64

EASTERN MOUNTAIN REGION
Richard P. Lewis 66

OBSERVERS 67

NOTICE TO RESEARCHERS

Several references in this issue include dates later than the cover date of June 1997. The journal is behind schedule and it has been necessary to use material which, in some cases, was submitted and accepted later in the year.

(Vol. 68, 1997) [ACTUAL PRINTING DATE: 27 February 1998]

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

The Migrant records observations and studies of birds in Tennessee and adjacent areas. Most articles are written by members of the Tennessee Ornithological Society.

SUBMISSIONS: The original and, if feasible, two copies of the manuscript should be sent to the Editor: J.D. Joslin, 112 Newcrest Lane, Oak Ridge, TN 37830. Manuscripts that have been published in other journals should not be submitted.

MATERIAL: The subject matter should relate to some phase of Tennessee ornithology. It should be original, factual, concise, and scientifically accurate.

STYLE: Both articles and short notes are solicited; recent issues of *The Migrant* should be used as a guide in the preparation of manuscripts. Where more detail is needed, reference should be made to the *CBE Style Manual;* this book is available at many public libraries and from the Council of Biology Editors, Inc., 111 East Wacker Drive, Suite 3200, Chicago, IL 60601-4298.

COPY: Manuscripts should be typed *double-spaced* on 8.5 x 11" paper with adequate margins for editorial notations. Tables should be prepared on separate sheets with appropriate title and column headings. Photographs intended for reproduction should be sharp with good contrast on glossy white paper; black-and-white photographs will usually reproduce better than color photographs. Weights, measurements, and distances should be in metric units. Dates should be in "continental" form (e.g., 16 March 1997). Use the 24-hour clock (e.g., 0500 or 1900).

NOMENCLATURE: The scientific name of a species should be given after the first use of the full common name in the text. The scientific name should be underlined and in parentheses. Names should follow the A.O.U. Check-list of North American Birds (sixth edition, 1983, or supplements).

TITLE: The title should be concise, specific, and descriptive.

ABSTRACT: Manuscripts of five or more typed pages should include an abstract. The abstract should be less then 5% of the length of the manuscript. It should include a brief explanation of why the research was done, the major results, and why the results are important.

LITERATURE CITED: List all literature citations in a Literature Cited section at the end of the text. Text citations should include the author and year.

IDENTIFICATION: Manuscripts including reports of rare or unusual species or of species at atypical times should include: date, time, light and weather conditions, exact location, habitat, optical equipment, distance, behavior of bird, comparison with other similar species, characteristic markings, experience of observer, other observers verifying the identification, and reference works consulted.

REPRINTS: Reprints are available to authors on request. Billing to authors will be through the TOS Treasurer.

SEASON REPORTS: Observations that are to be considered for publication in The Season section should be mailed to the appropriate Regional Compiler. Consult a recent issue of *The Migrant* for the name and address of the compilers.